



## **INDIAN COUNCIL OF MEDICAL RESEARCH**

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

**Media report (16<sup>th</sup> November to 29<sup>th</sup> November 2019)**  
**(ICMR IN NEWS)**

**(Syed Adil Shamim Andrabi)**  
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 two week's reports (ICMR IN NEWS dated 16<sup>th</sup> November to 29<sup>th</sup> November 2019) includes the mention Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) in 38 newspapers including top newspapers such as The Hindu, The Times of India, Business Standard, Economics Times among others. This report includes coverage of BMGF event.*

*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  
ICMR Hqrs, New Delhi*

**Superbugs get tough, 25% patients in Mumbai resistant to strong antibiotics**

November 17, 2019/The Times of India

**Ban on E-Cigarettes to Take Legislative Route as Govt Set to Replace Ordinance in Winter Session**

November 17, 2019/News 18

**ICMR push to engage scientists in infectious disease, immunology research**

November 17, 2019/The Hindu

**ICMR inks deal with US body, Gates Foundation for healthcare research collaboration**

November 17, 2019/Business Standard

**Bill Gates: India is a leader in global vaccine production**

November 17, 2019/The Week

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November 17, 2019/ET Healthworld

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November 18, 2019/Stock Market

**ICMR signs deal with Gates Foundation for healthcare research**

November 18, 2019/Drug Today Medical Times

**ICMR signs DoI with Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation & NIH**

November 18, 2019/BSI



**Bill Gates Awards Lifetime Achievement Award to Health Heroes**

November 18, 2019/The Quint

**Bill Gates Awards Lifetime Achievement Award to Health Heroes**

November 18, 2019/Daily Hunt

**Cancer expenses take a toll on Telangana**

November 18, 2019/Telangana Today

**Cancer represents a significant burden of non-communicable disease in India**

November 18, 2019/Daily Excelsior

**Bill Gates presents ICMR Lifetime Achievement Awards to 3 game changers of Indian Healthcare**

November 18, 2019/Medical Dialogues

**ICMR lifetime award for Biocon chief Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw**

November 18, 2019/Social News

**ICMR lifetime award for Biocon chief Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw**

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**Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw gets lifetime achievement award**

November 18, 2019/The Economics Times

**Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw Conferred with Lifetime Achievement Award by ICMR**

November 18, 2019/India Med Today

**ICMR lifetime award for Biocon chief Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw**

November 18, 2019/Porkela.com

**Kiran Mazumdar Shaw conferred with lifetime achievement award by ICMR**

November 19, 2019/Big News Network

**World's First Injectable Male Contraceptive, Made in India, Could Soon Be Reality**

November 19, 2019/The Wire

**Key bills on surrogacy, abortion, assisted reproduction this winter session**

November 19, 2019/Hindustan Times



**First male birth control injection almost ready for penises**

November 19, 2019/New York post

**Mortality due to cancer of mouth was 39,951 in 2018**

November 20, 2019/United News of India

**Medicines, lifestyle changes as effective as stents: Study**

November 21, 2019/Hindustan Times

**Male birth control injected into the penis could be available within 7 months**

November 22, 2019/Standard Digital

**ICMR to finalise principles to guide physicians on CPR for terminally ill patients**

November 23, 2019/The Indian Express

**First Men's Contraceptive Injection to be Introduced in 2020 by Indian Researchers**

November 23, 2019/The Rio Times

**First Ever Male Birth Control To Be Injected Into Penis**

November 23, 2019/HNHH

**Smoking, obesity key to heart issues among Indians: Study**

November 25, 2019/Hindustan Times

**Mizoram tops in cancer prevalence, Kerala saw fastest growth in 2 yrs**

November 25, 2019/The Times of India

**Indian government body touts 'world's first male contraceptive' to reduce population**

November 26, 2019/Life Site News

**ICMR inks MoU with Amity University**

November 27, 2019/BSI

**Lok Sabha Passes Bill To Ban E-Cigarettes [Read Bill]**

November 27, 2019/Live Law

**India's cancer burden continues to grow**

November 27, 2019/Health Issue India

**Lok Sabha passes Prohibition of E-Cigarettes Bill**

November 27, 2019/Live Mint

**Superbugs get tough, 25% patients in Mumbai resistant to strong antibiotics**

November 17, 2019/The Times of India

Here's an indication that superbugs—microorganisms that can't be killed easily by medicines—are gaining strength in Mumbai. Almost 25% of patients tested showed resistance to one of the high-potency antibiotics called flouroquinolones. About 3% of 1,800 kids (under 15) who are supposed to have limited exposure to bacteria and so suffer less from antibiotic resistance too had organisms resistant to second-generation flouroquinolones. In a study published recently in **Indian Journal of Medical Research**, a peer-reviewed, an indexed journal of the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), PGIMER Chandigarh's doctors announced that more than 70% of isolates of the 'scoping report on antimicrobial resistance in India (2017)' more than 70% isolates of *Escherichia coli*, *Klebsiella pneumoniae* and *Acinetobacter baumannii* and nearly half of all *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* were resistant to fluoroquinolones and third generation cephalosporins. India's TB epidemic is another example of how drug resistance among bacteria can wreak havoc among humans. India has high rates of resistance to antimicrobial agents used in humans and food animals, said the PGIMER report. The environment, especially water bodies, has also reported presence of resistant organisms or their genes. A study done in Mumbai six months ago found drug-resistant bacteria, especially typhoid-causing organisms, in eggs collected from 12 places in the city.

**Ban on E-Cigarettes to Take Legislative Route as Govt Set to Replace Ordinance in Winter Session**

November 17, 2019/News 18

Unfazed by the relentless pressure to reconsider the ban imposed on e-cigarettes and ENDS or Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems, the government is now preparing to bring up the bill in the upcoming winter session of Parliament. Prohibition of Electronic Cigarettes (Production, Import, Export, Sale, Distribution, Storage and Advertisement) Bill, 2019, prepared by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, will replace the Ordinance that was promulgated in September and is expected to be tabled in the winter session of Parliament that begins on November 18. Apart from pushing for a revocation on the ban on grounds that it violates Article 21 of the Indian Constitution, trader bodies have also questioned the economic rationale behind the move. Advocates argue that an uptick in the sale of e-cigarettes has led to a reduction in combustible cigarettes and has reduced public health cost reduction. This, they say, provides a tax revenue opportunity to the government, generates new livelihood opportunities and creates a market for export. "The export potential of this opportunity may be anywhere between \$500-700 million by 2025." Said TRENDS. The government on its part, has relied on a report prepared by the **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)**, and has justified the ban by terming e-cigarette consumption as a potential epidemic. The government also dismisses the use of ENDS as a harm reduction substance, which the ICMR calls a 'gateway product'.

## [ICMR push to engage scientists in infectious disease, immunology research](#)



November 17, 2019/The Hindu

Bill Gates on Sunday presented Lifetime Achievement Awards to Cyrus S. Poonawalla, chairman and MD, Serum Institute of India; Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw, chairman and director, Biocon India and Prakash Baba Amte, director, Lok Biradari Prakalp. He also addressed the 108th Foundation day of the Indian Council of Medical Research. “India’s make-in-India campaign has made a positive difference and though healthcare wasn’t my primary area of work in the initial years both me and my wife Melinda have made this our top priority. We want that every child has the right to reach his/her full potential in terms of physical and mental health,” said Bill Gates, co-chair of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF). He was speaking on the occasion to mark the celebration of the 108th Foundation day of the **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** here on Sunday. He also The awardees have been recognised for their efforts in providing better health care to people in the country and globally through innovative diagnostics, cost-effective life-saving tools and increasing access to healthcare at the grassroots. Mr. Gates said “his Foundation is committed to working collaboratively with the ICMR to provide support in development of solutions to some of the major health challenges facing India and the world”. The ICMR signed a Declaration of Intent (DoI) with the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAD) of the National Institutes of Health, USA and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF). This Declaration builds on an ongoing collaborative research and training programme between India and the U.S., including enhancement of research capacity. The Declaration was exchanged in the presence of U.S. Ambassador Kenneth I. Juster and Mr. Gates.

## [ICMR inks deal with US body, Gates Foundation for healthcare research collaboration](#)

November 17, 2019/Business Standard

The **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** inked a declaration of intent with a US institution and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to take forward an ongoing collaborative research and training programme between the two countries.

The declaration of intent between ICMR and the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAD) of the National Institutes of Health, USA and BMGF was exchanged in the presence of US Ambassador Kenneth I Juster and Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation co-chair Bill Gates, according to a statement. The collaboration will establish a research fellowship programme for young scientists in India and US to expand research that will advance discovery to improve clinical practice and benefit public health in both countries. The initial focus of this fellowship programme is intended to engage scientists in infectious disease and immunology research, with an emphasis on diseases that affect women and children. During the event, which also marked the celebration of 108th Foundation Day of ICMR, Gates presented ICMR Lifetime Achievement Award for Outstanding Achievement in Healthcare to three game-changers of the country in the field of health.

## **Bill Gates: India is a leader in global vaccine production**

November 17, 2019/The Week



On a three-day tour to India, Bill Gates, the world's richest man once again, told a select audience of scientists and public health professionals, "Working in [the field] of health was not my original career." Speaking at the headquarters of the **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** in New Delhi on Sunday evening, Gates said that the "injustices" that he and his wife Melinda witnessed in their lives, led them to focus on public health through the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. Gates had made a quick visit to the ICMR headquarters for the awards ceremony, right after de-boarding his flight from Patna to Delhi where he met chief minister Nitish Kumar. Gates said that much progress had been made in the state, especially when it came to immunisation, but vaccine coverage needed to be advanced to "95 per cent" of the state's population. In a brief speech at the ICMR event, Gates spoke about reducing the death of children due to poverty and "malnutrition" across the country. He commented on India's superior work in developing vaccines for the global population and stressed on "equity in health". The event also saw ICMR officials sign a Declaration of Intent (DoI) with the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAD) of the National Institutes of Health, USA and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF).

## **ICMR inks deal with US body, Gates Foundation for healthcare research collaboration**

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November 17, 2019/Devdiscourse

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## [ICMR inks deal with US body, Gates Foundation for healthcare research collaboration](#)

November 17, 2019/ET Healthworld

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November 18, 2019/Stock Market

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## [ICMR signs deal with Gates Foundation for healthcare research](#)

November 18, 2019/Drug Today Medical Times

The declaration of intent was exchanged in the presence of US Ambassador to India Kenneth I Juster and Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation co-chair Bill Gates, said an **ICMR** press statement. The partnership will establish a research fellowship programme for young scientists in India and the US to expand research that will advance discovery to improve clinical practice and benefit public health in both countries. The initial focus of this fellowship programme is intended to engage scientists in infectious disease and immunology research, with an emphasis on diseases that affect women and children, the release said. The event marked the celebration of the 108th Foundation Day of ICMR. Mr Gates presented the ICMR Lifetime Achievement Award for Outstanding Achievement in Healthcare to Dr Cyrus S Poonawalla, Chairman and Managing Director, Serum Institute of India; Dr Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw, Chairman and Managing Director, Biocon India; and Dr Prakash Baba Amte, Director, Lok Biradari Prakalp.

ICMR Director General Balram Bhargava said on the occasion, "This collaboration will give us a boost in finding cures that will make lives healthy and productive, not only in India but across the world."

Mr Bill Gates said, "The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation is committed to working collaboratively with the top Indian medical research body to provide support in development of solutions to some of the major health challenges facing India and the world."

## ICMR signs DoI with Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation & NIH

November 18, 2019/BSI



**Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)**, the apex body in India for health research has signed a Declaration of Intent (DoI) with the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAD) of the National Institutes of Health, USA and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF). This Declaration of Intent builds on an ongoing collaborative research and training program between India and US, including enhancement of research capacity. The Declaration of Intent was exchanged in the presence of US Ambassador Mr Kenneth I. Juster and Mr. Bill Gates, Co-Chair, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. The collaboration will establish a research fellowship programme for young scientists in India and US to expand research that will advance discovery to improve clinical practice and benefit public health in both countries. The initial focus of this fellowship programme is intended to engage scientists in infectious disease and immunology research, with an emphasis on diseases that affect women and children. During the event, which also marked the celebration of 108th Foundation day ICMR, Mr Gates also presented ICMR Lifetime Achievement Award for Outstanding Achievement in Healthcare to three game-changers of the country in the field of Health: Dr Cyrus S. Poonawalla, Chairman and Managing Director, Serum Institute of India; Dr Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw, Chairman and Managing Director, Biocon India and Dr Prakash Baba Amte, Director, Lok Biradari Prakalp.

## Bill Gates Awards Lifetime Achievement Award to Health Heroes

November 18, 2019/The Quint

"Made a huge difference to millions of lives not just in India but the entire world." This is what Mr. Bill Gates said about Dr Cyrus S. Poonawalla, Chairman and MD of the Serum Institute of India, the world's largest vaccine producer in terms of doses, and Dr. Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw, Chairman and Managing Director, Biocon India which is Asia's biggest biopharmaceutical company, as he presented them with the **Indian Council of Medical Research's** Lifetime Achievement Award for Outstanding Achievement in Healthcare. About Dr Prakash Baba Amte, Director, Lok Biradari Prakalp, and the third awardee of the ICMR Lifetime Achievement Award, who dedicated his entire life to serving tribal people, Mr. Gates said, "Dr. Prakash Amte has served in remote tribal villages doing amazing research and clinical services for under-served populations. This example is very inspiring as it helps us understand in what we need to do to improve health equity worldwide." The Indian Council of Medical Research, which handed out the awards, also marked its 108th Foundation day, wherein it highlighted its many moments of pride of service to the nation, including pioneering the largest vaccine trial for TB in 1959, introducing ORS therapy in 1970 and combating the Zika virus outbreak through indigenous diagnostics in 2019. The apex body in India for health research also signed a Declaration of Intent (DoI) with the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAD) of the National Institutes of Health, USA and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF), which builds on an ongoing collaborative research and training program between India and US. The collaboration will establish a research fellowship programme for young scientists in India and US to expand research in infectious disease and immunology, with an emphasis on diseases that affect women and children.

## Bill Gates Awards Lifetime Achievement Award to Health Heroes

November 18, 2019/Daily Hunt



"Made a huge difference to millions of lives not just in India but the entire world." This is what Mr. Bill Gates said about Dr Cyrus S. Poonawalla, Chairman and MD of the Serum Institute of India, the world's largest vaccine producer in terms of doses, and Dr. Kiran Mazumdar- Shaw, Chairman and Managing Director, Biocon India which is Asia's biggest biopharmaceutical company, as he presented them with the Indian Council of Medical Research's Lifetime Achievement Award for Outstanding Achievement in Healthcare. Bill Gates, Billionaire Philanthropist"Dr. Poonawalla and Dr. Mazumdar Shaw have developed important vaccines and drugs which have made a huge difference to millions of lives. This really is something that not only impacted India but the entire world." The **Indian Council of Medical Research**, which handed out the awards, also marked its 108th Foundation day, wherein it highlighted its many moments of pride of service to the nation, including pioneering the largest vaccine trial for TB in 1959, introducing ORS therapy in 1970 and combating the Zika virus outbreak through indigenous diagnostics in 2019. The apex body in India for health research also signed a Declaration of Intent (DoI) with the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAD) of the National Institutes of Health, USA and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF), which builds on an ongoing collaborative research and training program between India and US. The collaboration will establish a research fellowship programme for young scientists in India and US to expand research in infectious disease and immunology, with an emphasis on diseases that affect women and children.

## Cancer expenses take a toll on Telangana

November 18, 2019/Telangana Today

Cancer has become the second leading cause of death after cardiovascular ailments globally, a trend that was recently highlighted by a state-wide **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** study, published in The Lancet medical journal last year. However, the chances of survival or recovery i.e. prognosis from cancer is relatively low when compared to cardiovascular patients in Telangana and elsewhere. The major reasons for poor prognosis of cancer patients are low level of awareness about cancers, delayed diagnosis and of courses less accessibility to quality cancer care services.

## **Heavy out of pocket expenditure**

For cancer patients from economically weaker sections in Telangana, barring MNJ Cancer Hospital, there are not many quality treatment facilities. The MNJ Cancer Hospital attracts a heavy influx of poor cancer patients from the entire State and even from far-flung districts of Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh.

As a result, families belonging to low and middle income groups in Hyderabad and the districts only have Nizam's Institute of Medical Sciences (NIMS) as an option for treatment, which leads to a lot of out-of-pocket expenditure for patients. The treatment costs even at Basavatarakam India-American Cancer Hospital, which is managed by a charitable foundation, are a burden on patients.

## Cancer represents a significant burden of non-communicable disease in India



November 18, 2019/Daily Excelsior

Cancer represents a significant burden of non-communicable disease in India. Last year's GLOBOCAN data, a compilation of data from cancer registries across the world, suggests that around 1.1 million new cases are diagnosed in India every year, while there are 0.78 million deaths. The crude cancer incidence & death rates are both rising quite significantly, by 30% and 20% respectively; the age-standardised incidence rate has remained unchanged but age-standardised death rates for males has risen by 12% while it has remained unchanged in females. The age-standardised incidence & death rates are both highest in the NE states of India. (Data from the Global Burden of Disease Study across the States of India 1990-2016, published in The Lancet on behalf of ICMR & Gates Foundation) Prostate cancer is one of the most common types of cancer in men which develops in a man's prostate gland. Usually prostate cancer grows slowly and is initially confined to the prostate gland. As per GLOBOCON 2018 report with around 25,696 new cases are there where around 17,184 are death cases in India. A survey done by **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** also shows the awareness of the fatal disease has not even spared other metropolitan cities like Kolkata, Pune, Trivandrum, Bangalore and Mumbai where young men are falling prey to it.

## Bill Gates presents ICMR Lifetime Achievement Awards to 3 game changers of Indian Healthcare

November 18, 2019/Medical Dialogues

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## [ICMR lifetime award for Biocon chief Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw](#)

November 18, 2019/Social News



The **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** has conferred a Lifetime Achievement Award on Biocon chairperson Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw for her outstanding contribution to healthcare and society, the biotechnology firm said on Monday. "ICMR recognised Kiran as a thought leader for building a globally renowned biopharmaceuticals company committed to innovation and providing quality medicines to patients the world over," the city-based firm said in a statement

"I am honoured to receive the award from ICMR, which is one of the oldest medical research bodies in the world and has played a key role in encouraging medical research to address the country's healthcare challenges," Mazumdar-Shaw said.

Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation co-chair and co-founder of global software giant Microsoft Bill Gates presented the award to her in New Delhi on Sunday, marking the 108th foundation day of the ICMR.

"My mission of using innovation to develop bio-pharmaceuticals that can benefit a billion patients and enable affordable access to medicines is aligned with ICMR's purpose to create an ecosystem for medical research and innovation in India," Mazumdar-Shaw added. Serum Institute of India Chairman Cyrus Poonawalla and Lok Biradari Prakalp Director Prakash Baba Amte were also honoured with lifetime achievement awards by the ICMR.

## [ICMR lifetime award for Biocon chief Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw](#)

November 18, 2019/Outlook India

The **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** has conferred a Lifetime Achievement Award on Biocon chairperson Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw for her outstanding contribution to healthcare and society, the biotechnology firm said on Monday.

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"I am honoured to receive the award from ICMR, which is one of the oldest medical research bodies in the world and has played a key role in encouraging medical research to address the country's healthcare challenges," Mazumdar-Shaw said.

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"My mission of using innovation to develop bio-pharmaceuticals that can benefit a billion patients and enable affordable access to medicines is aligned with ICMR's purpose to create an ecosystem for medical research and innovation in India," Mazumdar-Shaw added. Serum Institute of India Chairman Cyrus Poonawalla and Lok Biradari Prakalp Director Prakash Baba Amte were also honoured with lifetime achievement awards by the ICMR.

## [Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw gets lifetime achievement award](#)

November 18, 2019/The Economics Times



Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw, chairperson and managing director, Biocon, has been conferred with Lifetime Achievement Award by the **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** for her outstanding achievement in healthcare and contribution to the society at large. ICMR, the apex body in India for the formulation, coordination and promotion of biomedical research, recognised Mazumdar-Shaw as a thought leader for building a globally -renowned biopharmaceuticals company that is providing high-quality, affordable medicines to patients across the world. Bill Gates, co-chair, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, gave away this award to Mazumdar-Shaw in New Delhi on Nov 17 at an event to mark the celebration of 108th Foundation Day of ICMR. She was also recognised for her philanthropic efforts and providing better healthcare to people in India and globally through cost-effective life-saving therapies and increasing access to healthcare at the grassroots. "My mission of using innovation to develop biopharmaceuticals that can benefit a billion patients and enable affordable access to medicines is quite aligned with ICMR's purpose to create a strong ecosystem for medical research and innovation in India. I strongly believe it's critical for us to invest in R&D to find innovative solutions to improve access and affordability of healthcare in the country to serve growing patient needs," said Mazumdar-Shaw was quoted saying.

## [Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw Conferred with Lifetime Achievement Award by ICMR](#)

November 18, 2019/India Med Today

Biocon Ltd, an innovation-led global biopharmaceuticals company, is pleased to announce that its Chairperson & Managing Director Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw has been conferred with the Lifetime Achievement Award for Outstanding Achievement in Healthcare by the **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** for her remarkable contribution to the field of healthcare and to the society at large. ICMR, the apex body in India for the formulation, coordination and promotion of biomedical research, recognised Ms. Mazumdar-Shaw as a thought leader for building a globally – renowned biopharmaceuticals company that is committed to innovation and is providing high-quality, affordable medicines to patients across the world. She was also recognised for her philanthropic efforts and providing better healthcare to people in India and globally through innovative, cost-effective life-saving therapies and increasing access to healthcare at the grassroots. On receiving the Lifetime Achievement Award, Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw said: "I am honoured to receive this award from ICMR, which is one of the oldest medical research bodies in the world and has played a pivotal role in encouraging medical research to address the country's healthcare challenges. My mission of using innovation to develop biopharmaceuticals that can benefit a billion patients and enable affordable access to medicines is quite aligned with ICMR's purpose to create a strong ecosystem for medical research and innovation in India. I strongly believe it's critical for us to invest in R&D to find innovative solutions to improve access and affordability of healthcare in the country to serve growing patient needs." Bill Gates, co-chair, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, presented this award to Ms. Mazumdar-Shaw in New Delhi on Nov 17, 2019 at an event to mark the celebration of the 108 th Foundation Day of ICMR.

## ICMR lifetime award for Biocon chief Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw

November 18, 2019/Porkela.com



The **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** has conferred a Lifetime Achievement Award on Biocon chairperson Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw for her outstanding contribution to healthcare and society, the biotechnology firm said on Monday.

"ICMR recognised Kiran as a thought leader for building a globally renowned biopharmaceuticals company committed to innovation and providing quality medicines to patients the world over," the city-based firm said in a statement "I am honoured to receive the award from ICMR, which is one of the oldest medical research bodies in the world and has played a key role in encouraging medical research to address the country's healthcare challenges," Mazumdar-Shaw said.

Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation co-chair and co-founder of global software giant Microsoft Bill Gates presented the award to her in New Delhi on Sunday, marking the 108th foundation day of the ICMR.

"My mission of using innovation to develop bio-pharmaceuticals that can benefit a billion patients and enable affordable access to medicines is aligned with ICMR's purpose to create an ecosystem for medical research and innovation in India," Mazumdar-Shaw added.

Serum Institute of India Chairman Cyrus Poonawalla and Lok Biradari Prakalp Director Prakash Baba Amte were also honoured with lifetime achievement awards by the ICMR.

## Kiran Mazumdar Shaw conferred with lifetime achievement award by ICMR

November 19, 2019/Big News Network

Biocon Ltd's Chairperson and Managing Director Kiran Mazumdar Shaw has been conferred with the lifetime achievement award for outstanding achievement in healthcare by the **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)**.

ICMR, the apex body in India for the formulation, coordination and promotion of biomedical research, recognised her as a thought leader for building a globally-renowned biopharmaceuticals company that is committed to innovation and is providing high-quality, affordable medicines to patients across the world.

Shaw was also recognised for her philanthropic efforts and providing better healthcare to people in India and globally through innovative, cost-effective life-saving therapies and increasing access to healthcare at the grassroots.

"My mission of using innovation to develop biopharmaceuticals that can benefit a billion patients and enable affordable access to medicines is quite aligned with ICMR's purpose to create a strong ecosystem for medical research and innovation in India," she said after receiving the award.

"I strongly believe it's critical for us to invest in RD to find innovative solutions to improve access and affordability of healthcare in the country to serve growing patient needs." Chairman and Managing Director of Serum Institute of India Cyrus S Poonawalla and Director of Lok Biradari Prakalp Prakash Baba Amte were also honoured with the lifetime achievement award by ICMR.

## World's First Injectable Male Contraceptive, Made in India, Could Soon Be Reality



November 19, 2019/The Wire

The **Indian Council for Medical Research (ICMR)** is now one step closer to releasing the world's first injectable male contraceptive. According to a *Hindustan Times* report, clinical trials have successfully been completed and sent to the Drug Controller General of India for approval.

"The product is ready, with only regulatory approvals pending with the Drugs Controller. The trials are over, including extended, phase 3 clinical trials for which 303 candidates were recruited with 97.3% success rate and no reported side-effects. The product can safely be called the world's first male contraceptive," senior scientist with the ICMR Dr R.S. Sharma told the newspaper.

At the moment, surgical vasectomy is the only form of male contraception available. The injection developed by ICMR works as a contraceptive for 13 years and loses its potency after that, *Hindustan Times* reports.

Scientists in the US have also been working on a similar drug, but a drug trial conducted in 2016 had to be stopped because of the side effects. "Side effects like acne and mood changes were common," the UK's National Health Service said about the trial. ICMR's contraceptive, according to *Hindustan Times*, is a polymer that is to be injected under local anaesthesia in the sperm-containing tube near the testicles (vas deferens). "The polymer was developed by Prof S.K. Guha from the Indian Institute of Technology in the 1970s. ICMR has been researching on it to turn it into a product for mass use since 1984, and the final product is ready after exhaustive trials," Sharma told the newspaper.

## Key bills on surrogacy, abortion, assisted reproduction this winter session

November 19, 2019/Hindustan Times

The Bills on surrogacy, assisted reproduction and medical termination of pregnancy are among the five legislations that the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare plans to introduce in the two houses of Parliament in the ongoing winter session. These include the Surrogacy (Regulation) Bill, 2019; the Assisted Reproductive Technology (Regulation) Bill, 2019; the Medical Termination of Pregnancy (Amendment) Bill, 2019 and to replace government's e-cigarettes ordinance, the Prohibition of Electronic Cigarettes (Production, Manufacture, Import, Export, Sale, Distribution, Storage and Advertisement) Bill, 2019.

Prepared by the **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)**, and scheduled to be introduced in the Lok Sabha, the Assisted Reproductive Technology (Regulation) Bill, 2019, aims to regulate assisted reproductive technology (ART) clinics and banks in the country. The Bill proposes to establish the National Advisory Board, the State Advisory Boards and the National Registry for the accreditation, regulation and supervision for prevention of misuse. Since ICMR has prepared the Bill, the apex research body will also make a presentation on the Bill before the Prime minister's office (PMO) on Tuesday, according to sources. "The ART Bill is scheduled for the winter session," confirmed Dr Balram Bhargava, director general, ICMR.

## **First male birth control injection almost ready for penises**

November 19, 2019/New York post

Would men endure a shot in the penis to prevent pregnancy? Indian researchers think so.

The **Indian Council of Medical Research**, a government-funded biomedical research agency, has successfully completed a clinical trial on an injectable male contraceptive, the [Hindustan Times reported](#).

“The product is ready, with only regulatory approvals pending [from the government],” Dr. R.S. Sharma, senior scientist with ICMR, told the local news outlet. “The trials are over, including extended, Phase 3 clinical trials for which 303 candidates were recruited with a 97.3% success rate and no reported side effects. The product can safely be called the world’s first male contraceptive.”

The birth control method, which lasts approximately 13 years, involves injecting a polymer, called styrene maleic anhydride, into the vas deferens, effectively blocking sperm from leaving the testicles. The shot, preceded by a dose of local anesthesia, is designed to supplant a traditional vasectomy.

Researchers in the US have developed a similar contraceptive, called Vasalgel, which has not yet been brought to market. A male birth control pill also exists, though researchers anticipate it’ll be about 10 years before the drug makes it to market. Also, drugs such as these can only prevent pregnancy, and do not protect against STDs.

“The polymer was developed by Professor S.K. Guha from the Indian Institute of Technology in the 1970s. ICMR has been researching on it to turn it into a product for mass use since 1984, and the final product is ready after exhaustive trials,” said Sharma. Researchers call this reversible inhibition of sperm under guidance.

## **Mortality due to cancer of mouth was 39,951 in 2018**

November 20, 2019/United News of India

As per the National Cancer Registry Programme of Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), the estimated number of mortality due to cancer of mouth was 34,668, 37,212 and 39,951 in 2016, 2017 and 2018, respectively. Official sources said these estimates are however, subject to certain limitations on data. Also, there is no separate data available to ascribe the above deaths to Pan Masala consumption. Standards of Pan Masala are specified under sub-regulations 2.11.5 of Food Safety and Standards (Food Products Standards and Food Additives) Regulations, 2011. Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has not issued any direction to ban Pan Masala. However, as per provisions of sub-regulation 2.4.5 (3) of Food Safety and Standards (Packaging and Labelling) Regulations, 2011, every package of Pan Masala and advertisement relating thereto is required to carry the following warning, namely-“Chewing of Pan Masala is injurious to health’, the sources said. Further, sub-regulation 2.3.4 of Food Safety and Standards (Prohibition and Restriction on Sales) Regulations, 2011 provides that tobacco and nicotine shall not be used as ingredients in any food product, which includes Pan Masala also. Enforcement of provisions of the Food Safety and Standards Act 2006, Rules & Regulations made there under primarily lies with states or UTs. As per sub-section 2 of Section 30 of Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006. Commissioners of Food Safety has been conferred with power to prohibit injurious products in the interest of Public Health.

## Medicines, lifestyle changes as effective as stents: Study

November 21, 2019/Hindustan Times



Medicines and lifestyle modifications can work as well as invasive procedures such as putting stents or performing a bypass surgery for blocked arteries in patients with severe but stable heart disease, according to a new research.

The study, presented at the American Heart Association (AHA) meeting in the US on Saturday, looked at whether procedures to restore normal blood flow in patients with stable heart disease offer an added benefit over more conservative treatment with aspirin, cholesterol-lowering drugs and other measures.

“For patients with stable ischemic heart disease, but with mild symptoms of angina (chest pain) that doesn’t hamper their routine functions, the best way to treat is targeted medical therapy. It is seen that additional angiography and angioplasty or bypass surgery do not bring any additional benefit in survival or reduction in heart attacks,” according to Dr Upendra Kaul, chairman, cardiology, Batra Hospital and Medical Research Center. Dr Kaul was one of the investigators from India for the seven-year, 5,179-patient ISCHEMIA study. Dr Balram Bhargava, director general of **Indian Council of Medical Research**, was the national leading investigator for the study for which India contributed 941 patients. The study was coordinated by iProcess, a contract research organisation based in Bengaluru.

The trial, sponsored by the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute, involved patients with moderate-to-severe but stable ischemia, a condition in which clogged arteries are not able to supply the heart with enough oxygen-rich blood.

Everyone in the trial received medicines and lifestyle advice, while half also underwent one of the invasive procedures.

## Male birth control injected into the penis could be available within 7 months

November 22, 2019/Standard Digital

In news that will come as music to the ears of many women, scientists have revealed that male birth control is almost ready. The birth control involves an injection directly into the penis and has just successfully completed a clinical trial at the **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)**. Speaking to Hindustan Times, Dr R.S Sharma, a senior scientist with the ICMR, said: “The product is ready, with only regulatory approvals pending [from the government].”

“The trials are over, including extended, Phase 3 clinical trials for which 303 candidates were recruited with a 97.3 per cent success rate and no reported side effects. The product can safely be called the world’s first male contraceptive.”

The birth control is made from a polymer called styrene maleic anhydride, and is injected into the vas deferent - the two ducts that carry sperm out of the testicles.

There, the polymer effectively blocks sperm from leaving the testicles, and amazingly, the effect can last for up to 13 years.

Professor S.K Guha, a scientist from the Indian Institute of Technology, said: “The polymer was developed by Professor SK Guha from the Indian Institute of Technology in the 1970s.

## ICMR to finalise principles to guide physicians on CPR for terminally ill patients



November 23, 2019/The Indian Express

Whether to pull the plug or not on a terminally ill patient is often a vexed ethical question for both relatives and physicians. The **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** is set to finalise next month the principles that will guide physicians on whether or not to perform Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR), that is put a patient on a ventilator, if there is an incurable disease where the patient's chances of survival are extremely low. The National Consultation meeting on 'Do Not Attempt Resuscitation' (DNAR) under the chairmanship of Prof. Balram Bhargava, DG, ICMR, and Secretary, Department of Health Research, is scheduled for December 2.

Speaking to The Indian Express, Dr Bhargava said: "There are many terminally ill patients who know they are not going to make it, their relatives also know that they are not going to make it. The DNAR is just a way for them to exercise the option of not being put on ventilator. Many other countries have DNAR guidelines." Currently, this is practised only informally, through a verbal contract between a patient and physician, provided the physician is amenable to the idea. Most hospitals demand a document from the court if a patient makes such a request through official channels.

## First Men's Contraceptive Injection to be Introduced in 2020 by Indian Researchers

November 23, 2019/The Rio Times

The Indian Medical Research Council (ICMR) is ready to revolutionize reproductive health worldwide, with the first male injectable contraceptive on the market as of 2020. The Hindustan Times reported that the ICMR, the country's leading biomedical research agency, announced that it has successfully completed clinical trials of the world's first injectable contraceptive for sexually active men.

The male contraceptive will be available in vials within "six or seven months," once developers have obtained regulatory approvals.

The ICMR is required to submit the extended phase-three clinical trials applied to 303 candidates, the methodology of . . .

## First Ever Male Birth Control To Be Injected Into Penis

November 23, 2019/HNHH

For the first time ever, a male birth control has passed clinical trials in India. According to the [Hindustan Times](#), The seemingly miracle drug is designed to prevent pregnancy for approximately 13 years, at which point the effects begin to wear off. The trials were done by The **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** and are now waiting for approval from the Drug Controller General of India.

Senior Scientist Dr. RS Sharma with ICMR said, "the product is ready, with only regulatory approvals pending with the Drugs Controller. The trials are over, including extended, phase 3 clinical trials for which 303 candidates were recruited with 97.3% success rate and no reported side-effects. The product can safely be called the world's first male contraceptive."

The breakthrough birth control is called reversible inhibition of sperm under guidance (RISUG). Sounds fairly straight forward, but brace yourselves. RISUG is basically a polymer that is injected into the vas deferens (aka the tube with sperm near the testicles). Yikes. The procedure is done by a medical professional under local anesthesia. According to Sharma the polymer was created in the 1970's, has been researched for mass usage since the 1980's, and now he says "the final product is ready after exhaustive trials." The final product may be ready, but will men be quick to inject their privates with anything, even if it prevents pregnancy?



### [Smoking, obesity key to heart issues among Indians: Study](#)

November 25, 2019/Hindustan Times

Controlling risk factors such as smoking and obesity and a focus on exercise are among the most important methods to help Indians manage heart disease, according to a new study that for the first time included a large number of Indian subjects. The findings, while in line with similar research carried out in western nations, is significant since it reaffirms how global focus areas are equally relevant to India. "There were some 5,000 heart disease patients studied for this trial that was on since 2012, and about 20% of the patients were from India, which makes the result very applicable to Indian population. This is the first time such a huge number from India participated in an international trial that makes it safe to say the results have never before been this relevant for Indians," said Dr Balram Bhargava, director general, **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)**.

Dr Bhargava, as professor of cardiology at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Delhi, was the national leading investigator for the study—ISCHEMIA (International Study of Comparative Health Effectiveness with Medical and Invasive Approaches) that was presented during last week's American Heart Association conference in the US.

### [Mizoram tops in cancer prevalence, Kerala saw fastest growth in 2 yrs](#)

November 25, 2019/The Times of India

The number of cancer cases in India has seen a steady rise in recent years with all states reporting a jump in number of patients afflicted with various types of the disease, the junior minister for health said in a reply tabled last week in Lok Sabha. As to steps being taken to combat the spread of cancer, minister Ashwini Kumar Choubey said the government is focusing on three types of cancers: breast, cervical and oral which, along with lung cancer, together account for 41% of the country's cancer burden, according to **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** data. A look at the data shared in Parliament.

## [Indian government body touts 'world's first male contraceptive' to reduce population](#)



November 26, 2019/Life Site News

One of India's most widely read newspapers is reporting that the country is on the verge of approving the world's first "male contraceptive". The Hindustan Times reports that an injectable male contraceptive, reportedly "effective for 13 years, after which it loses its potency," has recently passed clinical trials at the **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** and that it will now be sent for approval to the Drug Controller of India (DCGI). The ICMR is a research body funded by the government of India, and the DCGI is a department of the Central Drugs Standard Control Organization of the India government, which is responsible for the approval of licences of a variety of categories of drugs. The contraceptive drug is designed to be injected under local anaesthesia into the vas deferens (a sperm-containing tube near the testicles) by a medical professional. The report says that it is "designed as a replacement for surgical vasectomy," but Dr. R.S. Sharma, who has reportedly been spearheading the trials, has said that "the product can safely be called the world's first male contraceptive." The drug controller general of India, V.G. Somani, has said he thinks "it will still take about six to seven months for all the approvals to be granted before the product can be manufactured". The article notes that "[e]xperts say a male contraceptives [sic] can work well in the Indian context provided the government publicises it proactively". And a former government secretary for family welfare, A.R. Nanda, is reported to have said, "Two things are needed from the government for it to work; one is to make use of the trial subjects for awareness generation among masses about the product, and second is to offer higher incentives for people opting for male contraceptives".

## [ICMR inks MoU with Amity University](#)

November 27, 2019/BSI

**Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** has inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Amity University to develop academics links in the fields of medical sciences, healthcare, nutrition, life sciences and social sciences. The MoU has been signed for a period of three years, and will be renewed thereafter.

The key objectives of the MoU are-

- To promote contacts among scholars, students and personnel of both institutions.
- To provide opportunities for faculty, students, staff, scientists through organising seminars, workshops, brainstorming sessions etc.
- To work jointly for the common research interest at national and international levels. This includes preparation of proposals and their implementation as per the National Health Priorities.

As per the MoU, students working in ICMR or using ICMR facilities may be enrolled for Ph D programmes to be awarded by Amity University on the concession of 90% on their total fee. PhD students working at Amity may carry out a part of their research work in ICMR institutes or centers and vice-versa depending upon requirements. Also, scientists of ICMR may deliver lectures in areas of their specialisation students of AU as visiting faculty on days and timings pre- arranged on mutual consent. ICMR institutions or centers will provide regular short term project training to the students of Amity in their areas of specialisation and vice versa.

## Lok Sabha Passes Bill To Ban E-Cigarettes [Read Bill]

November 27, 2019/Live Law



The Lok Sabha on Wednesday passed the Prohibition Of Electronic Cigarettes (Production, Manufacture, Import, Export, Transport, Sale, Distribution, Storage And Advertisement) Bill, 2019, by voice vote. As the name suggests, the Bill prohibits production, manufacture, import, export, transport, sale, distribution, storage, and advertisement of e-cigarettes and similar devices, categorizing them as cognizable offences. It will replace the [ordinance promulgated by the Centre](#) in that behalf on 18 September. The Bill assumes importance from the standpoint of WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control, 2003, which India is a signatory to. Asserting that e-cigarettes result in lung cancer, cardiovascular diseases, and other illnesses associated with smoking traditional cigarettes, WHO had called upon all signatory states to the Framework in 2014, to consider prohibiting the use of e-cigarettes in their countries. Even the **Indian Council of Medical Research** had recommended a complete ban on e-cigarettes and other Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems. The bill introduced by Union Health Minister Dr. Harsh Vardhan stipulates that persons found in violation of the law for the first time will face a jail term of up to one year or a fine of up to one lakh rupees, or both. For subsequent offences, a jail term of up to three years and fine upto Rs 5 lakh.

## India's cancer burden continues to grow

November 27, 2019/Health Issue India

India's cancer burden is continuing to increase according to recent data from the **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)**. The news came from minister of state for health Ashwini Choubey, who told the Lok Sabha that the Centre was emphasising its efforts to tackle breast, cervical, and oral cancer which account for 41 percent of the total cancer burden in the country together with lung cancer. The national average cancer incidence is 13.1 for every lakh people, with more than half of states recording an incidence above this figure. In terms of cases by number, Uttar Pradesh leads the nation with 270,053 cancer cases in 2018. Meanwhile, Kerala witnessed the largest increase in cancer cases between 2016 and 2018, with a 12.8 percent growth. Bihar ranks second in terms of both cases and growth, with 145,051 cases in 2018 – reflecting an eleven percent increase from 2016. The data was shared to Lok Sabha MPs in a reminder of cancer's growing threat to public health in India. Cancer is responsible for almost thirteen percent of deaths in the country, placing second in terms of leading causes of mortality behind heart disease. In the coming years, cancer is expected only to increase further as a threat to public health. By 2040, cancer rates are expected to almost double to twenty lakh compared to 11.6 lakh cases in 2016. The disease is estimated to have killed 784,821 Indians last year, with new cases numbering at 1.15 million and the total number of people living with cancer in the country posited at 2.25 million. The threat the disease poses to public health is exacerbated by the state of cancer care infrastructure, which was deemed “highly inadequate” by a parliamentary panel earlier this year. The country has approximately 1,250 oncologists to manage its significant demand and, by 2040, will require 7,300 oncologists in order to cope with its cancer burden. A mere 62 dedicated cancer care centres operate in the country – making it an unsurprising though no less grim finding that 83 percent of India's cancer patients are failed on their treatment.

## Lok Sabha passes Prohibition of E-Cigarettes Bill

November 27, 2019/Live Mint



Lok Sabha on Wednesday passed a Bill that seeks prohibition of e-Cigarettes in India with Union Health Minister, Harsh Vardhan, calling the ban as a “pre-emptive strike” on the “hazardous” addiction. Harsh Vardhan said that with The Prohibition of Electronic Cigarettes (Production, Manufacture, Import, Export, Transport, Sale, Distribution, Storage and Advertisement) Bill, 2019, the government wants to save the large youth population of the country that would have been targeted by e-cigarette companies. The health minister defending his government’s stand on e-cigarettes said that vaping is harmful for the health of the people and “less harmful does not mean it is not harmful” as people claim it is less harmful than cigarettes. E-cigarettes are battery-operated devices that produce aerosol by heating a solution containing nicotine. These include all forms of Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems (ENDS), Heat Not Burn Products, e-hookah and the likes. According to the Bill that seeks to replace an ordinance issued on September 18, any person who contravenes these provisions will be punishable with imprisonment of up to one year, or a fine of up to one lakh rupees, or both. For any subsequent offence, imprisonment of up to three years along with a fine of up to five lakh rupees. The proposed legislation prohibits to use any place for the storage of any stock of e-cigarettes and a person storing stock of e-cigarettes, will be punishable with an imprisonment of up to six months, or a fine of up to ₹50,000, or both. According to the **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)**, the apex research body in India, use of ENDS or e-cigarettes has documented adverse effect on humans, which include DNA damage, carcinogenic, cellular, molecular and immunological toxicity, respiratory, cardiovascular and neurological disorders. These also have an adverse effect on fetal development and pregnancy.

With regards,

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