



## **INDIAN COUNCIL OF MEDICAL RESEARCH**

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

**Media report (28 September to 04 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 28 September to 04 October 2019) includes the mention Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) in 27 news papers including top news papers such as Times of India, The Hindu, Hindustan Times, The Indian Express 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  
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**Ban on e-cigarettes: Vaping organisations protest, demand regulation**

28 September 2019 / Livemint

**ICMR notice to Andhra clinic for IVF on 74-year-old woman**

28 September 2019 / The Indian Express

**Telangana hospitals emerge top clinical trial hubs**

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**National Health Authority rejected proposals on 'fraud-prone' 15 packages under PMJAY**

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**Urban Indian population at higher risk of heart disease: Dr Shaila**

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**Govt allays fears over clinical trials**

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**At a Delhi exhibition, superbugs and the end of antibiotics**

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**Sree Chitra institute commences study on cardiac failure**

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**From damaging blood vessels to heavy metals, studies list harms of e-cigarettes**

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**Dissemination workshop on Nutrition TB project**

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**Government planning to revive Penicillin to fight rheumatic fever**

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**India pushes for alternatives to animals in biomedical research**

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**68% of child deaths in India due to malnutrition, says study**

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**India and US Exploring Alternatives to Animal Testing in Biomedical Research**

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**Doyen of Nutrition research Colathur Gopalan no more**

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**ART bill should be revisited to check unethical practices in fertility treatments: Experts**

03 October 2019/Outlook India

**Nutrition scientist Gopalan no more**

04 October 2019/The Hindu

**Ex-DG of ICMR Dr C. Gopalan passes away at 101**

03 October 2019/Drug Today

**Ex-NIN director passes away**

04 October 2019/The Hindu



**C Gopalan, who championed India's public health programme, dies**

04 October 2019/Hindustan Times

**Legendary medical scientist Dr. Coluthur Gopalan passes away**

04 October 2019/Telangana Today

### **ICMR notice to Andhra clinic for IVF on 74-year-old woman**

28 September 2019 / The Indian Express

In its notice, issued last week, ICMR, the apex agency that frames policies on biomedical practice, has asked the clinic to explain why it performed IVF for a senior citizen, thereby risking her life, and why its registration should not be cancelled for this “unethical practice”. THE **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** has issued a notice of closure to Ahalya IVF clinic, based in Andhra Pradesh’s Guntur, for using assisted reproductive technique (ART) for a 74-year-old woman, who delivered twins on September 5. Erramatti Mangayamma is the oldest in the world to give birth through in-vitro fertilisation (IVF). In its notice, issued last week, ICMR, the apex agency that frames policies on biomedical practice, has asked the clinic to explain why it performed IVF for a senior citizen, thereby risking her life, and why its registration should not be cancelled for this “unethical practice”.

### **National Health Authority rejected proposals on 'fraud-prone' 15 packages under PMJAY**

28 September 2019 / The Indian Express

NEW DELHI: The National Health Authority, which implements the Centre’s Pradhan Mantri Jan Aarogya Yojana, turned down the proposal of specialist committees to increase package rates of nearly 15 “fraud-prone” treatments and procedures, this newspaper has learnt. This includes hysterectomy, medical management of heavy menstrual bleeding and nephrolithotomy, among others. The NHA had on Thursday announced a major and the first revision in the health package benefits offered under the scheme —dropping 554 packages out of a total of 1,393 and adding 237 new packages. Sources said the specialist committees which consisted of heads of departments of AIIMS, Delhi and PGI, Chandigarh along with experts from Department of Health Research, Indian Council of Medical Research and Tata Memorial Hospital, carried out an extensive review of the existing packages and came up with a detailed list of suggestions.

### **Telangana hospitals emerge top clinical trial hubs**

28 September 2019 / Times of India

HYDERABAD: Government-run hospitals are the biggest clinical trial labs in Telangana and Nizams Institute of Medical Sciences (NIMS) tops the charts with 21 clinical trials in 2019 out of 200 in the state. While around 339 serious adverse cases of deaths were reported in the country last year, only one case of abortion was reported in NIMS during the trials. An analysis of clinical trials registry data of **ICMR** by TOI has revealed that out of 571 clinical trials in Telangana region (from 2007 to 2014) and the state (2014 to till date), around 50 per cent of them — numbering 240 were taken up in NIMS followed by Gandhi Hospital, Osmania General Hospital, MNJ Cancer Institute and Niloufer Hospital. Though clinical trials have the ethics committee’s approval, legal experts and activists said that choosing government hospitals for trials is a sensitive issue.

## [Ban on e-cigarettes: Vaping organisations protest, demand regulation](#)

28 September 2019 / Livemint



New Delhi: The government's decision to ban e-cigarettes and vaping earlier this month attracted protests in several parts of the country on Saturday. Scores of vapers, harm reduction advocates, medical professionals and members of the legal fraternity opposed the government's approval of "Prohibition of E-cigarettes Ordinance 2019" and called for regulation instead of complete ban. The Association of Vapers India (AVI), an organisation that represents e-cigarette users, held nationwide protests in New Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Kolkata and Chennai. It also threatened to take a legal recourse against the decision. While the protests are expected to continue, cancer researchers and public health experts disagree that the government's decision should be reviewed. While the government has banned e-cigarettes considering them a major health risk, the apex research body **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** also recommended a complete ban on e-cigarettes and other electronic nicotine delivery systems (ENDS), based on currently available scientific evidence. As per the ICMR recent paper, it was noted that e-cigarettes and other such devices contained not only nicotine solution, which was highly addictive, but also harmful ingredients such as flavoring agents and vaporisers.

## [Urban Indian population at higher risk of heart disease: Dr Shaila](#)

29 September 2019 / OrissaPOST

Bhubaneswar: India has been facing the menace of increased mortality on account of non-communicable diseases such as heart diseases, hypertension, diabetes and stroke over the past few decades. Coronary heart diseases have taken a heavy toll on premature deaths in the country, especially in the urban areas. According to a recent study published in *The Lancet*, cardiac ailments killed more Indians (28%) in 2016 than any other non-communicable disease. The study also revealed that heart ailments caused more than 2.1 million deaths in India across all ages in 2015. An alarming increase in heart disease has been witnessed among young adults, mostly in the age group of 22-26 years, in India owing to sedentary lifestyle, unhealthy food habits, and high levels of emotional and physical stress especially in urban areas, binge drinking and use of narcotics. According to the ICMR (**Indian Council of Medical Research**) State-Level Disease Burden Report, among all age groups, the prevalence of heart disease has increased by over 50 per cent from 1990 to 2016 in India with an increase observed almost in every state.

## [Govt allays fears over clinical trials](#)

30 September 2019 / The Hans India

Hyderabad: In the wake of a fresh row over clinical trials in Telangana, the State Health department has given directions to all the Institutional Ethics Committees to check documents of all trials permitted by them within a week and if any trial was found to be in violation of the rules it should be stopped as per the ICMR (**Indian Council for Medical Research**) rules. Also, a decision has been taken to instruct all the Ethics Committees to monitor the trials on a regular basis besides setting up of data and safety monitoring boards in each institute. Director of Medical Education (DME) Dr K Ramesh Reddy in a press note had warned of disciplinary action against the doctors who try to defame the institutes for their personal egos and cause disrepute to the institutes.

## 'Only legally permitted trials are performed'

30 September 2019 / The Hindu



Five days after allegations surfaced over unauthorised clinical trials being conducted on poor patients at Niloufer Hospital without their consent, Health department officials have denied the charges and clarified that only legally permitted clinical trials are performed in government hospitals. The allegations made by an administrative official at Niloufer against a professor at the hospital had raised questions on the safety of patients admitted to government hospitals. Director of Medical Education K. Ramesh Reddy said volunteers are made part of the trials after their consent is taken and the process is approved by an Ethics Committee. "People need not panic as none of those drugs is used in out-patient or in patient treatment," Dr Reddy said. 'National Ethical Guidelines for Biomedical and Health Research involving human participants' of the **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** are followed for clinical trials. After an application to conduct trials is received by Ethics Committee of an institution, it is forwarded to the medical superintendent concerned. It is the committee which gives approval.

## At a Delhi exhibition, superbugs and the end of antibiotics

30 September 2019 / Hindustan Times

Want to understand why doctors ask you not to pop an antibiotic every time you get a cold? A visit to the National Science Museum near Pragati Maidan will be a good start. A travelling exhibition called 'Superbugs: The end of Antibiotics?' takes people on a journey of how antibiotics were discovered not even 100 years ago, how minor infections were killers before penicillin was accidentally discovered by Alexander Fleming, and what are the newer substitutes scientists are researching. "Everyone has heard about antibiotic resistance, this exhibition hopes to help them understand the magnitude of the problem. It shows how people with resistant infections have to be on treatment for years and in some cases none of the antibiotics work, plunging us into a pre-antibiotic era," said N Ramdas Iyer, curator at the National Science Museum in Delhi and one of the persons who curated this exhibition in India. The exhibition ends with a quiz to see how much people have understood about superbugs and the challenge of antibiotic resistance. There are experts from the **Indian Council of Medical Research** and other top science organisations answering questions at a console too. The exhibition will end in Delhi after the World Antibiotic Awareness Week between 18 and 24 November. It will then travel to Mumbai, Kolkata, and Bengaluru during the first year and then to Tier-II cities where the National Council of Science Museum has its own facilities.

## 12.1 per cent in 18-25 age group suffer from high BP

30 September 2019 / Deccan Chronicle

Bengaluru: With rapid urbanisation and poor lifestyle, there has been a steep increase in the incidence of high blood pressure among youngsters, and it is contributing majorly to chronic disease burden in the country. According to a study by the **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** in August 2019, one in four adults in the country has high blood pressure (BP). As per the Fourth National Family Health Survey (NFHS), high BP was reported in 13.8% men and 8.8% women aged 15-49 and 15-54 years respectively. The district level household survey revealed that among the younger participants (18-25 years) hypertension



was common with a prevalence of 12.1%. A young individual with symptoms of recurrent headaches, vision changes, dizziness, nosebleeds and chest pain should get BP checked as these indicate underlying hypertension. It is also important to undergo regular basic health checkups because high blood pressure is often silent and remains unrecognised unless checked.



### [Sree Chitra institute commences study on cardiac failure](#)

30 September 2019 / The New Indian Express

KOCHI: The Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology (SCTIMST) in Thiruvananthapuram has commenced a study on the micro-economic and psychosocial impact of heart failure (HF) among people belonging to different economic strata. The study is being conducted under the aegis of the Centre for Advanced Research and Excellence (CARE) in HF. It was in last September that the **Indian Council for Medical Research** selected SCTIMST as CARE in HF after considering its interventions in the field of heart diseases in India. “Last time we conducted such a study was in 2010. Since then, much has changed,” said Dr Harikrishnan S, Professor of Cardiology at SCTIMST. He added, “The introduction of generic medicines, Jan Aushadhi generic drug outlets and health insurance schemes like Ayushman Bharat and Karunya Arogya Suraksha Padhathi might have triggered significant change in the micro-economic and psychosocial aspects of people.” The interesting aspect of this study will be to explore the continuity of treatment of those affected by HF. Also, it will be worth examining the importance that patient gives for follow-up like taking the right dose of medicines at the right time, regular check-up and controlling the risk factors, and options available for follow-up care at the health system.

### [From damaging blood vessels to heavy metals, studies list harms of e-cigarettes](#)

30 September 2019 / Livemint

According to one study, e-cigarette customers risk inhaling a chemistry lab’s value of heavy metals, with hyperlinks to most cancers and lung illness E-cigarettes are battery-operated devices that produce aerosol by heating nicotine, an addictive substance in combustible cigarettes for those who assume that e-cigarette is a safer option when compared with traditional cigarettes, researchers worldwide have put forth enough evidence to the contrary. In a latest study, researchers from the College of California, Riverside, discovered eleven heavy metals — include aluminum, calcium, chromium, copper, iron, lead, magnesium, nickel, silicon, tin, and zinc — within the vapors produced by six standard, tank-style e-cigarettes. The research was published in journal Scientific Studies last week. The **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** has also recommended a complete ban on e-cigarettes and other electronic nicotine delivery systems (ENDS), based on currently available scientific evidence. As per the recent ICMR paper, e-cigarettes and other such devices contain not only nicotine solution, which is highly addictive, but also harmful ingredients such as flavoring agents and vaporisers.

## Dissemination workshop on Nutrition TB project

30 September 2019 / OrissaPOST



BHUBANESWAR: A dissemination workshop of Nutrition TB project Odisha was held at ICMR-RMRC auditorium here Monday. The workshop was jointly organised by **ICMR** regional medical research centre, Department of Health resource and Ministry of Health and Welfare, Govt of India. It was inaugurated by special secretary, Public Health, Govt of Odisha, Haraprasad Pattnaik while director of health Dilip Kumar Sarangi and director of public health Ajit Kumar Mohanty were the guests of honour. Speaking on the occasion, Pattnaik said, “Odisha has been doing phenomenal work to eradicate this disease and with new sputum smear positive pulmonary TB attending RNTCP centres in Gajapati district and few blocks of Rayagada, Kalahandi and Kandhamal districts of Odisha the TB project is gaining success in Odisha. Sanghamitra Pati, director, MD and MPH, also stressed on the impact of a food supplement on the nutritional status of adults and to assess the quality of life and return to normal functionality among patients receiving food supplement along with anti-TB treatment. Studies show that causative agent of tuberculosis (TB) is Mycobacterium tuberculosis. It is a contagious airborne infection that destroys body tissues. Pulmonary TB occurs when mycobacterium tuberculosis primarily attacks the lungs and other organs.

## Gandhi at 150: He walked 18 kms a day and avoided using cars, rickshaws

01 October 2019 / Down To Earth

After returning from South Africa in 1915, Mahatma Gandhi dedicated most of his time in India to travelling. CB Dalal chronicled Gandhi's stay in India until his assassination in 1948. The book *Gandhi: (1915-1948) A Detailed Chronology* shares some lesser-known details about Gandhi. For example, Gandhi spent a majority of his time in India, 5,217 days to be precise, travelling. The way he travelled to different parts of the country revealed that ethics of sustainable mobility. According to Dalal, Gandhi never travelled by air despite the fact that there were aircraft during his time. Even for England, South Africa, Sri Lanka and Myanmar, Gandhi used the sea route. While travelling within India, Gandhi was dependent on trains and cars but he made sure that they were not the only modes of transport he relied on. He walked extensively. Gandhi walked 18 kilometres a day for nearly 40 years, stated an analysis published in the *Indian Journal of Medical Research* in 2019. The analysis, which was done by Balram Bhargava and Rajni Kant of the **Indian Council of Medical Research**, contained an elaborate account of Gandhi's health profile.

## Government planning to revive Penicillin to fight rheumatic fever

01 October 2019 / Financial Express

The government is planning on the revival of Penicillin in a bid to fight against drug resistance and to tackle rheumatic heart disease. Penicillin is one of the oldest antibiotics known to man and is still effective in many cases as not many organisms have developed resistance to it yet. According to an Indian Express report citing sources, Penicillin went out of production in India as a result of unrealistic price control. It also suggested that the government is planning to procure Penicillin centrally for a minimum of three years and give it to all children aged between 5 years to 15 years suffering from a sore throat, at least once. It was

reported that the drug will be dispensed through primary health centres or administered by ASHAs. First discovered in 1928, Penicillin is still the first-line antibiotic in many western countries. The antibiotics gradually went out of the Indian market, but some of its more expensive derivatives are still prescribed. Studies based on population indicate that as many as 2 out of 1,000 people get affected by Rheumatic Heart Disease in India. However, a survey conducted among school children in the age group of 5 to 16 years by **ICMR** suggested an overall prevalence of 6/1000.



### [India pushes for alternatives to animals in biomedical research](#)

01 October 2019 / Nature

India has become the latest nation to explore using emerging technologies such as organs-on-a-chip to replace animals in research. Earlier this month, the national regulator for biomedical research recommended fast-tracking investments in technologies that can replace animals. Some Indian scientists have welcomed the plan, but they say that alternatives for drug toxicity and efficacy tests are not yet sufficient to replace animals. They also note that a move towards alternative technologies will require a substantial and costly overhaul of the drug-approval process in India, which currently requires medicines to be tested in rodents and primates or dogs before people. Emerging technologies that model complex human physiology — such as organoids and organs-on-a-chip, which are laboratory-grown versions of human tissues — are starting to rival, and in some cases outperform, animals in their ability to model human disease, according to the **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)**. In a discussion paper published in the Indian Journal of Medical Research<sup>1</sup>, a team representing the ICMR that includes Soumya Swaminathan, the council's former director-general and now deputy director-general at the World Health Organization, argue that such technologies, and others including computer models that simulate drug toxicity, are more cost-effective and humane than animal testing. They therefore call for the government to establish centres of excellence for developing such approaches, and to increase funding and international collaborations for alternative technologies.

### [Baghel Government Fails to Tackle Renal Failure in Chhattisgarh Village](#)

01 October 2019/The Wire

Supebeda lies about a 100 km south of the district headquarter of Gariaband on Chhattisgarh's border with Odisha. A small village with about 1000-1200 residents, nothing differentiates Supebeda from the other densely forested villages around it. Except for the fact that nearly everyone in the village suffers from kidney ailments and is listed in government records as a "renal patient".

Between 60 and 100 people have lost their lives in the last eight years due to renal failure – 69 in the past two and a half years according to a report in TOI. After a former sarpanch lost his life to a kidney-related ailment on Monday, the village was once again pitchforked into local news – a stark reminder for Chhattisgarh's chief minister Bhupesh Baghel of his unfulfilled promise of action to the villagers.

The village of Supebeda became an election issue prior to the assembly elections in Chhattisgarh in December last year. Around September 2017 more than two dozen deaths had been reported and the issue had dragged on, through the following summer, after the collector from Gariaband, Shruti Singh, failed miserably at saving lives despite the continuous flow of information and the place's history.

## ***What is wrong in Supebeda?***



The water and soil have been tested by the Agriculture College Raipur and **Indian Council of Medical Research**, New Delhi. The patients have also been examined by doctors from AIIMS Delhi. A very high quantity of dissolved metals may be one of the reasons for the ailments, even though that may not be the sole cause.

It was discovered that the quantity of chromium, zinc and cadmium was higher than normal in both the water as well as the soil. The water and soil have also been tested for fluoride and the filtration plant in the village was meant to distil fluoride. Villagers have, however, found that to be of no use.

One village elder, Ahilya Netam, died in January this year and former sarpanch Purandhar Purena's death now has put the focus back on not only the continued mystery of kidney ailments but also to the question as to why the government cannot approach the issue in a different manner.

## **E-cigarette Smoking Potentially Threats Life-A Necessary Ban**

01 October 2019/News Bricks

**E-cigarette Smoking Potentially Threats Life-A Necessary Ban:** Smoking or Vaping Cigarettes generally harms and threatens life of people. E-cigarettes are not an exception in creating health-related issues. Several studies revealed the fact in recent reports.

Electronic cigarettes or E-cigarettes operated by a battery produces vapours by combusting Nicotine substances. E-cigarette stimulates smoking without heating or burning tobacco. E-cigarette releases Aerosol which is produced by heating nicotine substance.

Researchers and scientists also reveal that E-cigarette poses similar health damages compared to traditional cigarettes for those who have a safer opinion about E-cigarette smoking or vaping. The myth of 'No harm' in E-cigarette compared to traditional cigarettes among the vapers increases demand and develops a threat to normal life.

**Vaping disorders:** E-cigarettes vaping have a similar respiratory illness related to traditional cigarette smoking. Smoking damages blood vessels; Causes lung cancer and much more respiratory problems. Scientists confirm E-cigarettes are not safe; Vaping also involves adverse effects on the health of vaper.

E-Cigarette marketing among smoking people creates a myth of nicotine-free vaping has risen its usage among cigarette vapers. The chemicals and metals present in E-cigarette create lung illness, gastro problems, carcinogenic effects on lungs risking the customer's life.

Heavy Metals like zinc, aluminium, copper, iron lead in Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems(ENDS) produces vapours of that heavy metals-College of California research says in the Journal Scientific Studies.

In a recent study of **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)**, E-cigarette usage reveals adverse effects of vapers health leading to DNA, brain, lung, emphysema, pregnancy and gastro disorders.

## Gandhi at 150: He walked 18 kms a day and avoided using cars, rickshaws



01 October 2019/Down to Earth

After returning from South Africa in 1915, Mahatma Gandhi dedicated most of his time in India to travelling. CB Dalal chronicled Gandhi's stay in India until his assassination in 1948. The book *Gandhi: (1915-1948) A Detailed Chronology* shares some lesser-known details about Gandhi. For example, Gandhi spent a majority of his time in India, 5,217 days to be precise, travelling.

The way he travelled to different parts of the country revealed that ethics of sustainable mobility. According to Dalal, Gandhi never travelled by air despite the fact that there were aircraft during his time. Even for England, South Africa, Sri Lanka and Myanmar, Gandhi used the sea route. While travelling within India, Gandhi was dependent on trains and cars but he made sure that they were not the only modes of transport he relied on. He walked extensively. His foot march to Noakhali and Tipperah districts, from November 1946 to February 1947, where he appealed for peace in the aftermath of communal violence is another outstanding example of remarkable capacity to walk. Gandhi had also been on a bicycle-ride once in India, wrote Dalal. Drawing from these examples, it would not be wrong to suggest that Gandhi was ahead of his times in choosing sustainable transport for his tours and travel. Gandhi walked 18 kilometres a day for nearly 40 years, stated an analysis published in the *Indian Journal of Medical Research* in 2019. The analysis, which was done by Balram Bhargava and Rajni Kant of the **Indian Council of Medical Research**, contained an elaborate account of Gandhi's health profile. Health records published in the journal also revealed that he walked a total of 79,000 km during his political campaigns from 1913 to 1948. Gandhi's choices with regard to transport were based on the idea of avoiding the misuse and abuse of resources. He relied on a rigorous rationalisation of transport options and avoided the unnecessary reliance on cars for covering short distances.

## 68% of child deaths in India due to malnutrition, says study

02 October 2019/The Telegraph

Malnutrition is still the cause of 68 per cent deaths in children under five years in India, a study done jointly by Indian and international agencies has revealed.

The study, published in the peer-reviewed journal *The Lancet*, examined the period from 1990 to 2017 to gauge the state-wise health disease burden in the country. It was conducted by the **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)**, Public Health Foundation of India, and Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation, with the help of the ministry of health and family welfare. The study observed that though the quantum of malnutrition-related deaths in children has come down by two-third since 1990, it is still the cause of 68 per cent of such deaths in the country.

A key metric devised by the researchers to quantify the disease burden attributable to malnutrition was disability-adjusted life years (DALY), which the researchers explained as the “sum of number of years of life lost due to premature death and a weighted measure of the years lived with disability due to a disease or an injury.”

## India and US Exploring Alternatives to Animal Testing in Biomedical Research



03 October 2019/Buddhist Door

India's national regulator for biomedical research, the **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)**, has recommended fast-tracking investments in technologies that can replace animal testing, following calls from an influential medical journal to transition drug toxicity and efficacy trials away from animals. The call follows the publication of a paper on 12 August in Volume 149, Issue 5 of the Indian Journal of Medical Research (IJMR), by a senior team of researchers representing the ICMR. Led by Soumya Swaminathan, deputy director-general at the World Health Organization and former director of the ICMR, the paper's authors said that alternative technologies would be more ethical and humane but also more cost-effective than animal testing. The team suggested that emerging technologies that model "complex human physiology—such as organoids and organs-on-a-chip, which are laboratory-grown versions of human tissues—are starting to rival, and in some cases outperform, animals in their ability to model human disease . . ." (Nature) Alokparna Sengupta, managing director of the Indian chapter of Humane Society International, noted: "This is the first time that an important government agency has publicly spoken about the need for alternatives to animals in research. The need to replace animals in laboratories is not only an ethical issue but one critical to the advancement of medical research and to India's technological and economic competitiveness on the global stage." (The Times of India) The ICMR had set up a committee to consider alternatives to animal testing in 2017, with Swaminathan advocating centers of research and investment in funds, as well as building global scientific alliances, to develop alternative technologies. (International Business Times)

## Doyen of Nutrition research Colathur Gopalan no more

03 October 2019/The Hindu Business Line

Colathur Gopalan, the doyen of nutrition research in India, who lived a hundred years with remarkable contributions, passed away on Thursday morning in Chennai. In a strange coincidence, Gopalan and the Hyderabad-based National Institute of Nutrition (NIN), of which he was the founder director, celebrated their centenary in 2018. Born on November 29, 1918 in Salem, Tamil Nadu Gopalan is survived by his son, Sharath Gopalan, and daughter Malini, with whom he was staying the last few years. He breathed his last following age-related complications in the early hours of Thursday. Gopalan, who hailed from a middle-class family, studied at the Madras Christian College School. His father was in the Police service. After earning an MBBS from Madras Medical College and MD from Madras University, he began his career with the Nutrition Research Laboratory (NRL), which started as a small laboratory in Coonoor in 1918 as part of the Pasteur Institute. NRL was moved to Hyderabad in the late 1950s and Gopalan became its first Director in 1962. In 1969, as part of its golden jubilee, it was renamed as NIN. Under his stewardship, NIN grew in repute, expanded and flourished. Many facilities such as the animal lab, museum, research, toxicology, training etc were established. Gopalan rose to become the Director General of the **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** from 1973-79. During this period, he was instrumental in the launch of three national institutes — Malaria, Leprosy and Vector Control research. He left a lasting impression on the NIN, which he led from 1962-73.

## [ART bill should be revisited to check unethical practices in fertility treatments: Experts](#)



03 October 2019/Outlook India

Experts on Thursday recommended that the bill on assisted reproduction be revisited to check unethical practices during fertility treatments and the rampant commercialisation of the in-vitro fertilisation (IVF) procedure.

Recently, a 74-year-old woman in Andhra Pradesh had given birth to twin girls, sparking controversy over the use of such treatments on older women.

As per the Assisted Reproductive Technology Bill 2017, which calls for a national framework for supervision and regulation of ART clinics that treat infertility and offer surrogacy services, these procedures should not be carried out on women under 18 years and above 45 years.

"The government needs to revisit the bill urgently. Due to a lack of strict regulation through ART laws, we are witnessing a surge in unethical practices and rampant commercialisation of IVF.

"I also strongly recommend that the ART should not be made available to women below the age of 18 and above the age of 45," said Dr Archana Dhawan Bajaj, Gynaecologist, Obstetrician and IVF Expert, Nurture IVF Centre.

IVF at advanced ages come with risks of pregnancy loss, fetal anomalies, stillbirth, and obstetric complications. It is also associated with medical co-morbidities in mother like hypertension, diabetes and heart problems. It poses risks to both mother and child, she added. The **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** has been making efforts to put in place regulations and it drafted the ART bill. Fertility experts urged ICMR to take urgent action for re-introduction of the bill in Parliament.

## [Ex-DG of ICMR Dr C. Gopalan passes away at 101](#)

03 October 2019/Drug Today

During his seven decades active research career, Dr. C Gopalan served in many prestigious positions. He served as the Director of National Institute of Nutrition, Hyderabad, from 1961 to 1974 and as Director General of **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)**, New Delhi, from 1974-79. He was awarded the Padma Shri in 1970 and Padma Bhushan in 2003. Dr. C Gopalan was a scientist of international eminence and spearheaded the cause of nutrition science for several decades. His contribution towards the betterment of nutrition of the population benefited not only India but also other developing countries, especially Southeast Asian countries. His contribution helped to strengthen and inspire movements for the eradication of under-nutrition in many Third World countries. Under his leadership as Director NIN, Hyderabad, a wealth of information was generated to tackle problems such as Protein Energy Malnutrition, Vitamin A deficiency, Phrynoderma, Lathyrism, Fluorosis and Pellagra. The National Nutrition Monitoring Bureau (NNMB) was also started by him. During his tenure as the Director-General of ICMR, Dr. C Gopalan is credited with envisioning and helping build three national institutes for research on Leprosy, Malaria and Vector Control under ICMR. "NIN today bears testimony to his genius as an architect and father of nutrition sciences in India. Research under his leadership formed the basis of major national nutrition programmes initiated in the 1970s - ICDS, Massive Dose Vitamin-A and Iron supplementation. His contributions are invaluable and the loss due to his departure is irreparable", said Dr. R Hemalatha, Director NIN, Hyderabad.

## [Nutrition scientist Gopalan no more](#)

04 October 2019/The Hindu



Padma Bhushan Coluthur Gopalan, eminent nutrition scientist and former Director General of Indian Council of Medical Research, who was widely regarded as a father-figure in nutrition science in India, died here on Thursday due to age-related ailments. He turned 100, last November.

Malini Seshadri, his daughter, said he was hospitalised for chest infection.

Dr. Gopalan, born in a traditional household in Tamil Nadu in 1918, went on to obtain a doctorate from University of London in 1949 and subsequently headed the National Institute of Nutrition, Hyderabad, from 1961 to 1974.

He was awarded Padmashri in 1970. He served as the Director General of Indian Council of Medical Research from 1974 to 1979. Among his achievements while heading ICMR was the setting up of Vector Control Research Centre in Puducherry. A statement by ICMR on his demise said that his research brought to fore the different aspects of nutrition, including public health, agriculture, and socio-economic factors, especially with respect to under-privileged sections. It said that the research under his leadership contributed to initiation of major nutrition programmes like the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS). Sarath Gopalan, a physician and son of Dr. Gopalan, said the latter's book 'Nutritive Value of Indian Foods' is still considered a Bible among nutrition scientists in India.

## [C Gopalan, who championed India's public health programme, dies](#)

04 October 2019/Hindustan Times

Dr Coluthur Gopalan passed away on Thursday at his Chennai home over a month before his 101st birthday on November 28. A former director of the National Institute of Nutrition (NIN), director general (DG) of **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)**, and the founder-president of the Nutrition Foundation of India (NFI), he is widely regarded as the Father of Nutrition Science in India.

Dr Gopalan's research on the nutrition status of the Indian population laid the foundations for several national nutrition programmes, including those for anaemia control, vitamin A supplementation, integrated child development services (ICDS), the goitre control through universal salt iodisation.

He was awarded Padma Bhushan in 2002, recognised as a Living legend in nutrition by the International Union of Nutrition Sciences in 2013 and the Federation of Asian Nutrition Societies in 2018.

Born in Salem in Tamil Nadu, Dr Gopalan completed his MD from Madras Medical College in 1943 and did his PhD in nutrition in the UK in 1949. He began his career in nutrition at the Nutrition Research Laboratory in Coonoor, which soon shifted to Hyderabad, where Dr Gopalan took over as the director in 1962. Under his leadership, NRL evolved from an institute with just six scientists into the National Institute of Nutrition (NIN), which has become India's nodal institute for scientific research on nutrition and allied sciences.

I first met Dr Gopalan when he was the DG of ICMR and I was a senior research officer. He asked me to move from ICRM Delhi to NIN Hyderabad to look after the clinical component of a WHO-ICMR collaborative study on the impact of hormonal contraceptives on undernourished women. I told Dr Gopalan that while I had experience in clinical trials of contraceptives, all I knew about nutrition was what I learned as an undergraduate in medical college. He said, "NIN needs a person with experience in clinical trials; you will initially get help in the nutritional aspects, but you'll have to quickly acquire expertise in nutrition."



## Legendary medical scientist Dr. Coluthur Gopalan passes away

04 October 2019/Telangana Today



Legendary medical scientist and father-figure of nutrition research in India Dr. Coluthur Gopalan has passed away in the early hours of Thursday at his residence in Chennai after a brief spell of illness. Dr. Gopalan was born in 1918 and celebrated his 100th birthday last year. The scientist was widely regarded and held in high esteem for promoting the concept of nutrition in India. During his seven decades of active research career, Dr. Gopalan occupied many prestigious positions. He served as the Director of National Institute of Nutrition, Hyderabad from 1961 to 1974 and as Director General of **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)**, New Delhi from 1974-79. He was awarded the Padma Shri in 1970 and Padma Bhushan in 2003 by Government of India.

## Ex-NIN director passes away

04 October 2019/The Hindu

Noted scientist, father-figure of nutrition research in India, and ex-Director of National Institute of Nutrition (NIN) Dr. Coluthur Gopalan passed away in the early hours of Thursday at his residence in Chennai after a brief illness.

Dr. Gopalan was born in 1918 and celebrated his 100th birthday last year. He served as the Director of NIN from 1961 to 1974 and as DG of **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)**, New Delhi, from 1974-79.

He was awarded the Padma Shri in 1970 and Padma Bhushan in 2003. A scientist of international eminence, he spearheaded the cause of nutrition science for several decades -- contributing towards betterment of nutrition of population in India and other developing countries, especially in south-east Asian countries.

With regards,

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