



INDIAN COUNCIL OF MEDICAL RESEARCH

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

Media report (20 July to 2 August 2019)
(ICMR IN NEWS)

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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.

These two week's reports (ICMR IN NEWS dated 20 July to 2 August 2019) includes the mention Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) in 100 news papers including top news papers such as The Times of India, Hindustan Times, The New Indian Express, The Hindu, Business Standard, Navbharat Times 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.

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TB prevalence to be studied at district level

20 July 2019/The Hindu

Govt to list 'essential medical devices', cap trade margin

21 July 2019/Times of India

With 3-tier surveillance, top Indian scientist gets ready to battle typhoid

21 July 2019/Hindustan Times

Infected hospitals: Healthcare associated infections on the rise

21 July 2019/The Asian Age

VP urges doctors to adopt their villages

21 July 2019/Deccan Herald

National movement against NCDs needed: V-P

22 July 2019/The Hindu

Call to follow ICMR ethical norms

22 July 2019/The Hindu

Mighty millets for a more diversified diet

22 July 2019/The Hindu

Cervical cancer cases show decline: Govt data

22 July 2019/Times of India

Vice President Venkaiah Naidu for national movement against non-communicable diseases

22 July 2019/The Hans India

12 lakh cases of oral cancer in India in 2018: why dental care is important

22 July 2019/The News Minute

Mobile tuberculosis survey in 17 districts of Odisha

22 July 2019/The New Indian Express

Centre mulls banning e-cigarettes

22 July 2019/The Tribune



North America Digital Therapeutics Market to Soar at a CAGR of CAGR of 20.8% to 2025

22 July 2019/Hitech News Daily

Gastric Cancer Therapy Market 2018 Stand Out as the Biggest Contributor to Global Growth and Will Hit 13% CAGR By 2023

22 July 2019/The Inherent News

Smoking e-cigarettes is more injurious to health

23 July 2019/The Hindu

Ebola, 9 other viral diseases pose a big threat to India

23 July 2019/Times of India

'Couldn't afford to show fear': Kerala's health minister KK Shailaja on dealing with Nipah

23 July 2019/The Indian Express

Healthcare is linked with the rising number of infections

23 July 2019/Health Gazette

Scientists call for surveillance against Ebola, nine other viral infections in India

23 July 2019/Moneycontrol

India CRO Market Industry Sales, Top Brands Share, Recent Developments, Revenue Segmentation by Services Types and CAGR Analysis till 2023

23 July 2019/The Market Plan

Govt initiates new process to identify essential medicines

23 July 2019/Livemint

ICMR launches forum to improve data collection and use

July 24, 2019/The Hindu

ICMR launches platform to boost health data quality in India

July 24, 2019/Business Standard

[आईसीएमआर ने स्वास्थ्य आंकड़ों की गुणवत्ता बढ़ाने के लिए बनाया मंच](#)

July 24, 2019/Navbharat Times



[Centre's new data forum to prevent errors, discrepancies](#)

July 24, 2019/The Week

[ICMR launches NDQF to improve quality of health and demographic data in India](#)

July 24, 2019/Outlook India

[ICMR launches platform to boost health data quality](#)

July 24, 2019/Deccan Herald

[Platform for quality control of data launched](#)

July 24, 2019/The Quint

[ICMR launches NDQF to improve quality of health data](#)

July 24, 2019/Drug Today

[Platform for quality control of data launched](#)

July 24, 2019/The Weekend Leader

[Platform for quality control of data launched](#)

July 24, 2019/daijiworld.com

[ICMR launches platform to boost health data quality in India](#)

July 24, 2019/Devdiscourse

[Platform for quality control of data launched](#)

July 24, 2019/Newsd

[ICMR launches forum to improve data collection and use](#)

July 24, 2019/The World News

[Platform for quality control of data launched](#)

July 24, 2019/canindia.com

[India starts collecting data for 5th National Family Health Survey](#)

July 25, 2019/Hindustan Times

Platform for quality control of data launched

July 25, 2019/New Kerala



ICMR launches platform to boost health

July 25, 2019/The Pioneer

ICMR Launches NDQF – National Data Quality Forum

July 25, 2019/Medical Dialogues

ICMR – NIMS launch National Data Quality Forum to improve quality of data that feeds into evidence based decision making

July 25, 2019/Express Healthcare

Why India lacks quality in its demographic and health data?

July 25, 2019/Live Mint

CDSA supports launch of ICMR TB vaccine trial

25 July 2019/BSI bureau

NIMH to be amalgamated with NIOH

25 July 2019/The Hitavada

Merger of National Institute of Miners' Health with ICMR-NIOH

25 July 2019/Jagran Josh

Cabinet approves merger of National Institute of Miners' Health with ICMR-NIOH

25 July 2019/The Northlines

Govt approves merger of NIMH with ICMR-NIOH

25 July 2019/Millennium Post

Meeting on Vector-Borne Diseases at Pasighat in East Siang District of Arunachal Pradesh

25 July 2019/The Sentinel Assam

NIN launches e-learning modules on nutrition in Hyderabad

27 July 2019/Telangana Today

**Do not BAN, regulate sale, use of e-cigarettes, other ENDS devices:
Trade representatives of ENDS**

27 July 2019/Medical Dialogues

Revised Recommended Dietary Allowances by 2019-end: NIN

27 July 2019/Telangana Today

Govt constitutes committee for regulation of medical devices

27 July 2019/Daily Excelsior

Cytecancer Cancer Hospitals Launches CANCON 2019

27 July 2019/Business Wire India

SMS Hospital flouts rules by seeking religion for research work

28 July 2019/Times of India

Road safety a combined responsibility

28 July 2019/Daily Excelsior

After 36 years of testing, Indian-made leprosy vaccine finally set for large roll-out

28 July 2019/Daily Excelsior

Coronary artery disease on a rise in young Indians

28 July 2019/The Statesman

Antibiotic resistance: it's all in the misuse

28 July 2019/Deccan Herald

ICMR launches National Data Quality Forum

29 July 2019/Deccan Herald

ICMR guidelines to fill gene therapy gap

29 July 2019/Deccan Herald

India's big battle of the bulge

29 July 2019/DNA India

HIV Status: Women Leave Behind Men In Assam

29 July 2019/The Sentinel Assam

ICMR launches National Data Quality Forum

29 July 2019/BSI bureau



Future epidemics: The list goes on

29 July 2019/Hyderabad Cyf

Lok Sabha passes The National Medical Commission Bill, 2019; Read Bill & its Salient features

29 July 2019/Legal Desire News Network

Gastric Cancer Therapy Market 2019 to Expand at a CAGR of 13% by 2023: Top-most Competitor Analysis Covering Market Demand, Market Share, Market Size & Growth, Complete Industry Overview

29 July 2019/Market Reporter

'Biotech R&D makes India hub of quality drugs, vaccines': Trevor Mundel of Gates foundation

30 July 2019/Hindustan Times

First time in state, superbug cases identified in Mysuru

30 July 2019/Daijiworld

ICMR-run Nari to help Bangladesh establish research centre

31 July 2019/Hindustan Times

Drug-resistant HIV found in 12 countries in WHO survey, poses threat to India too

31 July 2019/ThePrint

RS members demand cancer detection and treatment centres in all districts

31 July 2019/Livemint

Centre's hypertension control initiative prog expanded to 100 districts

July 31, 2019/The Times of India

Govt aims to treat nearly 150mn high BP patients over next four years

July 31, 2019/Hindustan Times

Centre's hypertension control initiative prog expanded to 100 districts

July 31, 2019/Business Standard

Centre targets reducing number of high BP patients by a quarter by 2025

July 31, 2019/The Week



Centre's hypertension control initiative prog expanded to 100 districts

July 31, 2019/The Week

Centre's hypertension control initiative prog expanded to 100 districts

July 31, 2019/Outlook India

ICMR expands hypertension initiative to 100 districts, 15 crore people

July 31, 2019/Medi-Bulletin

1 in 4 adults suffering from hypertension in India; medical association to expand controlling initiative program

July 31, 2019/Devdiscourse

1 in 4 adults suffering from hypertension in India; medical association to expand controlling initiative program

July 31, 2019/Sify News

Over 10 crore people sitting on minefield of high BP unawares

July 31, 2019/Medicare News

ICMR's hypertention initiative to cover 100 districts in India

July 31, 2019/Drug Today Medical Times

1 in 4 adults suffering from hypertension in India; medical association to expand controlling initiative program

July 31, 2019/ANI news

Sri Balaji Vidyapeeth hosts health research convention

31 July 2019/The Hindu

Locked in litigation on e-cigarettes, vapes ban, Health Ministry seeks opinion of Law Ministry

31 July 2019/The Indian Express

Odisha Government bans E-cigarettes and hookahs

31 July 2019/The New Indian Express

Centre's hypertension control initiative prog expanded to 100 districts

August 1, 2019/ET Healthworld

Govt's BP control initiative to be expanded to 100 districts

August 1, 2019/Elets

Can National Essential Diagnostics List alone fight India's healthcare battles?

1 August 2019/Financial Express

Explained: What's at stake in India's biggest ever trial of tuberculosis vaccines

1 August 2019/The Indian Express

ICMR launches India Hypertension Control Initiative

1 August 2019/The Hindu BusinessLine

ICMR, WHO and MoH&FW to expand hypertension initiative

1 August 2019/Express Healthcare

First time ever! India to conduct its biggest tuberculosis preventive trial with two new vaccines

1 August 2019/Financial Express

What is National Medical Commission Bill and why doctors are against it

1 August 2019/ThePrint

Telmisartan Market Business Overview, Challenges, Opportunities, Trends by 2018-2026

1 August 2019/Business Intelligence

Need for evidence-informed funding for Leptospirosis Research in India

1 August 2019/BSI bureau

Spotlight on malaria research again as new case surfaces

2 August 2019/Times of India

Will surrogacy law be really effective in India ?

2 August 2019/E-Pao.net

ICMR expands India Hypertension Control Initiative

2 August 2019/BSI bureau

TB prevalence to be studied at district level

20 July 2019/The Hindu

Soon, a Tuberculosis (TB) Prevalence Survey will be launched in Tamil Nadu. While the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare is funding a National TB Prevalence Survey to fetch an estimate of TB prevalence for T.N. and Puducherry, the government of Tamil Nadu is providing additional funds to estimate TB prevalence at the district level in the State. This, according to officials of State TB Control, will help gather district-specific information on the prevalence of TB. Such information would help fix targets to eliminate TB by 2025, said K. Senthil Raj, State TB officer. The State government recently announced ₹9.5 crore for the survey. Sriram Selvaraju, scientist C, Epidemiology Department, **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)**-National Institute for Research in TB (NIRT), Chennai, said the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare-funded National TB Prevalence was being carried out along with the Central TB Division, ICMR, NIRT and World Health Organisation, India. ICMR-NIRT is the nodal agency for survey implementation. “The objective is to estimate the prevalence of microbiologically confirmed pulmonary TB in 20 State/State groups,” he said. A total of 37 clusters, distributed in 22 districts, will be covered as part of the National TB Prevalence Survey.

Govt to list ‘essential medical devices’, cap trade margin

21 July 2019/Times of India

NEW DELHI: In a step towards controlling high prices of commonly used medical devices, the government is set to identify a list of “essential medical devices”, expected to be a precursor to anti-profiteering measures such as capping trade margins in the range of 30-50%. The list is intended to be the basis for policy action intended to prevent distributors, wholesalers, retailers and even hospitals from seeking exorbitant trade margins on products like stents, catheters and various implants. Capping trade margin in the 30-50% range may at first sight appear high but reflect a balance, sources said. Currently, medical devices are largely out of government price control. Just four items — cardiac stents, drug eluting stents, condoms and intra uterine devices — are in the National List of Essential Medicines and fall under government’s purview. Apart from these, only knee implants have been recently brought under price control. **Indian Council of Medical Research** – the research and analysis wing of health ministry - has called a meeting with all stakeholders on July 26 to discuss concerns relating to the pricing after which it may finalise the list that is under discussion. While some sections call for cap on MRP, the government is inclined to checking trade margins which might find higher acceptance in the medical-pharma sector. A number of consultations have taken place recently involving Department of Pharmaceuticals (DoP), National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA), Niti Aayog and Prime Minister’s Office (PMO). Last week, commerce minister Piyush Goyal had also sought representations from the industry after concerns over price cap on medical devices were raised, particularly by American companies.

[With 3-tier surveillance, top Indian scientist gets ready to battle typhoid](#)



21 July 2019/Hindustan Times

From her early days as a student in Vellore's Christian Medical College (CMC) in the 90s to building a nationwide network of surveillance centres for rotavirus, one of the major causes of diarrhoea in India, through the 2000s, the 56-year-old scientist has long identified the need for quality data to build medical public policy. Now, Kang – who in April became the first woman from India to become a fellow of the prestigious Royal Society in London – is building the disease burden case for typhoid, which kills around 200,000 people annually, most of them in India. Kang and her associates at CMC and Translational Health Science and Technology Institute, Faridabad, have built a three-tier surveillance system, spanning small catchment hospitals in rural areas to major cities. The first tier deals with 24,000 children in four sites between six months and 15 years of age, and checks for fever that lasts for more than three days. The second stage is in rural hospitals with a catchment of 100,000 people each. “The idea is that most fevers will go to these hospitals; any fever that gets admitted gets a blood culture, we measure how severe typhoid is in that community,” she said. Kang's tryst with big data began in 2005, when in association with the **Indian Council for Medical Research**, she started building a national network for surveillance of the rotavirus. “For public health policy, quality data systems are a priority but it is a huge challenge. With each disease, we have to reinvent the wheel because we haven't invested enough in data quality,” she said. The research culminated in the discovery of the rotavirus vaccine, as part of her work under the Newton-Bhabha fund.

[Infected hospitals: Healthcare associated infections on the rise](#)

21 July 2019/The Asian Age

In 2009, a Hepatitis B epidemic occurred in Modasa, northern Gujarat. The virus outbreak was found to be caused by the reuse of contaminated needles. Over 125 people were infected and up to 49 people died. While the case throws light on extreme impacts of healthcare associated infections (HAI), we often gloss over the ongoing risk of infections occurring in hospitals routinely. A patient recounted to me that his mother was once admitted for a fracture repair of a bone in her leg. She was successfully operated on and was discharged promptly. Three days later, she developed a fever and burning sensation while urinating. She was diagnosed with a urinary tract infection, which she got during catheterisation during and immediately after the surgery in hospital. While my patient and his mother suffered from increased suffering and additional costs, consequences of hospital acquired infections are not limited to these. Results of these infections could be extremely grave and fatal, too. Although high-quality data is scarce, available data shows prevalence of such infections in developing countries, including India, to be around 15 per 100 patients. This is more than double the rate that is found in developed countries. However, things are slowly, but surely changing. Over the past several years, some large private and government hospitals have participated in understanding and estimating the prevalence and spread of these infections to gain greater insight on this highly problematic issue and eventually help in the preparation of improved healthcare policies. As a country, we recognise the need for policy and guidance documents to prevent such infections and implement control measures. In fact, in 2016, **Indian Council for Medical Research** issued guidelines for such infection control.

VP urges doctors to adopt their villages

21 July 2019/Deccan Herald



Vice-President M Venkaiah Naidu Sunday said India was now witnessing a troubling epidemiological transition from communicable diseases to non-communicable, lifestyle diseases (NCDs) and stressed the need to establish NCD clinics both in urban and rural areas. Addressing a Global Health Summit, organised by the American Association of Physicians of Indian Origin (AAPI) here, Naidu said a national movement against the growing incidence of non-communicable diseases needs to be launched. The Vice-President, quoting the **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** India State-Level Disease Burden Study report - "India: Health of the Nation's States", said the estimated proportion of all deaths due to NCDs has increased from 37.09 per cent in 1990 to 61.8 per cent in 2016. "I feel that there is a need to establish NCD clinics both in urban and rural areas and the private sector must play a prominent role in setting up such clinics," he was quoted as saying in a press release. Naidu urged organisations like AAPI to collaborate with the government and private sector in India in conducting massive screening programmes and awareness campaigns, in their crusade against non-communicable diseases. He further said it was not only the responsibility of doctors, as a society everyone had the responsibility to take part in spreading awareness about healthy lifestyle. The Indian Medical Association must take the lead to promote awareness among people, particularly school and college students, on the health hazards caused by sedentary lifestyles and unhealthy dietary habits, he said.

National movement against NCDs needed: V-P

22 July 2019/The Hindu

The estimated proportion of deaths due to non-communicable diseases (NCDs) in India has increased from 37.09% in 1990 to 61.8% in 2016, said Vice-President M. Venkaiah Naidu as he spoke at length about the threat posed by NCDs such as diabetes, hypertension and cancer on Sunday. He was addressing the inaugural session of the three-day Global health Care Summit 2018, organised by American Association of Physicians of Indian Origin (AAPI) here. He quoted the figures from **ICMR** India State-Level Disease Burden Study report 'India: Health of the Nation's States'. "What is more worrisome is that a large proportion of those suffering from such diseases are young. A national movement against the growing incidence of NCDs needs to be launched. There is a need to establish NCD clinics in urban and rural areas and the private sector must play a prominent role in this regard," the Vice-President said. Urging doctors to adopt medical social responsibility, he appealed to them to make youngsters aware of the importance of maintaining a healthy lifestyle and food habits. Mr. Naidu also listed shortcomings in the health sector — low doctor-patient ratio, high share of out-of-pocket expenditure, inadequate infrastructure in rural areas, lack of penetration of health insurance and inadequate preventive mechanism. "There is also a great urban-rural divide when it comes to healthcare infrastructure. Nearly 86% of all medical visits in India are by people living in rural areas with majority required to travel long distances for accessing quality health care facility. Besides, the out of pocket expenses are driving many into the vicious cycle of debts. To mitigate this crisis, we need to pay much more attention to primary healthcare," he suggested.

Call to follow ICMR ethical norms

22 July 2019/The Hindu



Biomedical research should follow ethical considerations, Nandini K. Kumar, former Deputy Director, **Indian Council for Medical Research (ICMR)**, has said. She was speaking at a training programme at the Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences here on Sunday. Dr. Kumar spoke about the need to follow the national ethical guidelines of the ICMR for biomedical and health research. Biomedical research should adhere to the principles of autonomy, beneficence, non-maleficence, and justice, she added. The programme was held in collaboration with the Forum of Ethics Review Committee in India.

Mighty millets for a more diversified diet

22 July 2019/The Hindu

It is time to introduce millets into the kitchens of each household not only for a more diversified diet but also to tackle issues like obesity, malnutrition and under-nutrition among sections of the population. Millet promotion through various products is also imperative considering the vagaries of monsoon and to help dryland farmers, said principal scientist of city-based Indian Institute of Millet Research, B. Dayakar Rao on Sunday. The principal scientist called for a “rebranding” of millets, from being called as a ‘poor man’s diet’ to ‘diet for everyone’ since they can now be easily processed with newer technology into ready-to-eat or ready-to-cook products catering to the current urban food lifestyles. Dr. Rao also dismissed reports of millet consumption leading to hyperthyroidism or goitre and said research studies carried out by the **Indian Council of Medical Research** and National Institute of Nutrition had established the nutritional value of these crops whose carbohydrate and protein values are much better than other staple crops.

Acharya N.G. Ranga Agriculture University professor J. Lakshmi (food and nutrition), Prof. Jayashankar Telangana State Agricultural University professor Uma Devi (college of home science) and Prakrutivanam founder M.C.V. Prasad also spoke.

Cervical cancer cases show decline: Govt data

22 July 2019/Times of India

NEW DELHI: Cervical cancer, the second most common cancer among Indian women, is on a declining trend with population-based registries across the country showing new cases falling at an average rate of 1.81%-3.48%, government data showed. All the regional registries by **ICMR** (released in 2016) including Bengaluru, Barshi, Chennai, Bhopal, Delhi and Mumbai showed a significant decrease in age-adjusted rate over time. While the reduction was attributed primarily to improvement in living standards of women, experts cautioned that the incidence rate could be an underestimate due to under-diagnosis, primarily in rural areas. While the reduction was attributed primarily to improvement in living standards of women, experts cautioned that the incidence rate could be an underestimate due to under-diagnosis, primarily in rural areas. “In India, most cervical cancer cases are detected with regional spread of the disease, and a very small proportion is diagnosed at a localised stage. Hence, many cases may not be reported as cervical cancer at all,” a public health expert said.

Vice President Venkaiah Naidu for national movement against non-communicable diseases

22 July 2019/The Hans India



Hyderabad: Vice-President M Venkaiah Naidu on Sunday said India was now witnessing a troubling epidemiological transition from Communicable Diseases to Non-Communicable, lifestyle diseases (NCDs) and stressed the need to establish NCD clinics both in urban and rural areas. Addressing a Global Health Summit, organised by the American Association of Physicians of Indian Origin (AAPI) here, Venkaiah Naidu said a national movement against the growing incidence of non-communicable diseases needs to be launched. The Vice-President, quoting the **ICMR** India State-Level Disease Burden Study report-"India: Health of the Nation's States," said the estimated proportion of all deaths due to NCDs has increased from 37.09 per cent in 1990 to 61.8 per cent in 2016. "I feel that there is a need to establish NCD clinics both in urban and rural areas and the private sector must play a prominent role in setting up such clinics," he was quoted as saying in a press release.

12 lakh cases of oral cancer in India in 2018: why dental care is important

22 July 2019/The News Minute

Dental care and oral hygiene largely remains an undiscussed topic, with few people aware of the risks associated with poor dental hygiene. The National Oral Health Care Programme, which falls under the care of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW), stated that despite the fact that several dental diseases have been burdening the country in the last three decades, little attention has been paid to tackling these issues. Tooth decay, dental caries, and periodontal diseases have been noted to be high among the Indian population, and yet oral care is ignored so often. "When it comes to oral hygiene, very few people are aware of the basics. People still don't know about the basic brushing practices, much less anything else. So when they do come to us, it's usually when they are presenting with a larger problem," explains Chennai-based dentist Dr Padma Alluri. She notes that with regard to oral cancers, very few people are aware of the symptoms. In 2018, the National Institute of Cancer Prevention which falls under the **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)**, released a study that showed that oral cancer cases in India had spiked in a span of six years. The institute noted that around 12 lakh cases of cancer were reported across the country in 2018, rising from 10 lakh reported cases in 2012. Reports have stated that anywhere up to as much as 85% of the entire population is susceptible to a dental disease, with India being referred to as the world's "capital" for oral cancers.

Mobile tuberculosis survey in 17 districts of Odisha

22 July 2019/The New Indian Express

BHUBANESWAR: The nation-wide tuberculosis prevalence survey of **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)**, Central TB Division and World Health Organisation Regional Office for South-East Asia was launched in Odisha on Sunday. The survey to be carried out by Mobile X-ray unit fitted in van with cartridge-based nucleic acid amplification test machines, was flagged off by Health Secretary Dr Pramod Meherda at Malipada PHC (New) here. The survey will be conducted to estimate the prevalence of microbiologically-confirmed pulmonary TB among people aged more than 15 years. It will also profile socio-demographic and

associated risk factors of participants including diabetes and explore behaviour of participants who are symptomatic and currently under TB treatment. Though efforts for TB control are underway since 1962 with the launch of National Tuberculosis Programme and later with Revised National TB Control Programme in 1997, monitoring progress by estimating the disease burden in the community has been a challenge. Pulmonary tuberculosis is one of the main causes of morbidity and mortality in the country. But there is no reliable estimates of TB burden at the national and sub-national level. The Health Secretary asked all the stakeholders to conduct the survey with utmost dedication as TB is also associated with poverty and other social determinants of health. Identification of TB patients is a top priority. The survey will pave way for its elimination, he said.

Centre mulls banning e-cigarettes

22 July 2019/The Tribune

The government is mulling ways to ban electronic nicotine delivery systems (ENDS) or e-cigarettes after evidence to suggest that they pose grave risk to human health including malignancies, brain damage, cardiovascular diseases and anxiety disorders. Discussions are underway in the Ministry of Health to see if ENDS can be defined as drugs under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 and regulated strictly like drugs. e-cigarette is the most common type of ENDS that produces an aerosolised mixture of flavoured liquids and nicotine which is inhaled by the user. Other ENDS products are heat-not-burn devices, e-sheesha and e-nicotine flavoured hookahs which are available all over the country. The ministry moved against ENDS after a recent research by the Indian Council of Medical Research recommended a complete ban on ENDS in India. “Based on current data, **ICMR** recommends complete prohibition on ENDS or e-cigarettes in India. ENDS contain nicotine solution which is highly addictive and also contain other ingredients as flavouring agents and vapourisers which are also harmful. Use of e-cigarettes causes adverse effects on humans which include DNA damage; carcinogenesis; cellular, molecular and immunological toxicity; respiratory, cardiovascular and neurological disorders and adverse impact on foetal development,” research authors JK Chakma and Ravi Dhaliwal say.

North America Digital Therapeutics Market to Soar at a CAGR of CAGR of 20.8% to 2025

22 July 2019/Hitech News Daily

The Digital Therapeutics Market research by Market Study Report. It offers a feasibility analysis for investment and returns supported with data on development trend analysis across important regions of the world. The global digital therapeutics market is expected to reach US\$ 8,941.1 Mn by 2025 from US\$ 1,993.2 Mn in 2017. The digital therapeutics market is estimated to grow with a CAGR of 20.8% during the forecast period from 2018 to 2025. On the other hand, large number of undiagnosed population is expected to be prevalent future trend in the global digital therapeutics market The patients segment is expected to be the largest and fastest growing segment in the coming years. The increasing prevalence of diabetes helps to drive the market. Moreover, rise in the number of cases of dementia and Alzheimer’s disease also help to upsurge the demand for digital therapeutics in the forecast period. The digital therapeutics market was

estimated through extensive primary and secondary sources that includes a vast array of government authorized websites such as Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Habib Medical Group (HMG), **Indian Council Of Medical Research (ICMR)**, International Diabetes Federation (IDF), World Health Organization (WHO) and others. The primary respondents included chair-holders and representatives of the demand and supply side for healthcare industries as well as medical professionals at digital therapeutics device manufacturing companies, hospitals, and research centers.



[Gastric Cancer Therapy Market 2018 Stand Out as the Biggest Contributor to Global Growth and Will Hit 13% CAGR By 2023](#)

22 July 2019/The Inherent News

Gastric Cancer Therapy Market research report (2018 – 2023) studies market insights, List of major Key players, buyers, threats of new entrants and substitute products. Also, Gastric Cancer Therapy market includes the various market dynamics like Drivers, Restraints, and Opportunities globally. The research report involved the various affecting factors like market growth, market share, competitive intelligence and growth opportunity. According to a report published by **Indian Council of Medical Research** in 2014, gastric cancer is the fourth leading cancer in the world, accounting for 736,000 deaths. Around 1 million new cases of gastric cancer and 0.7 million deaths due to gastric cancer are reported every year. Age-standardized incidence rates are approximately twice as high in men as in women. Presently, gastric cancer is more common in Asia, than in the United States or Europe. Notably, 42% of cases occur in China alone. Thus, increasing incidence of gastric cancer, coupled with strong drug pipeline, and introduction of novel therapies for metastatic stomach cancer, across the world, are likely to drive the market for gastric cancer therapy. The global cost of cancer therapy and drugs increased from USD 91 billion to USD 113 billion, in 2016. High cost of therapy and adverse events associated with the existing cancer drugs, for treatment of stomach cancer, may hinder the global stomach cancer market. The serious side effects associated with the usage of drugs include autoimmune reactions and infusion reactions.

[Smoking e-cigarettes is more injurious to health](#)

23 July 2019/The Hindu

The Narendra Modi government's proposal to ban e-cigarettes and other electronic nicotine delivery systems (ENDS) needs to be welcomed as such a move will ensure that Indians, especially, children, are kept away from these pernicious products. Such a ban has also been recommended by the **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)**, which called for a "complete prohibition on ENDS and e-cigarettes in India in the greater interest of protecting public health, in accordance with the precautionary principle preventing public harm from a noxious agent." The Health Ministry last year issued an advisory asking the States to ensure that products like e-cigarettes and e-nicotine-flavoured hookahs are not manufactured, distributed advertised or sold. Following this, 15 States, including Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Jammu and Kashmir and Mizoram, banned them. Several of the bans were under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act or the Poisons Act, under which nicotine was included as a 'poison'.

Ebola, 9 other viral diseases pose a big threat to India

23 July 2019/Times of India



NEW DELHI: India needs to brace for viral diseases like Ebola that have not entered the country so far but have raged in some other countries in recent years. Scientists from the **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** and the National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) - the most important health research bodies in the country - have identified 10 emerging viral infections that could pose a threat to public health in India. These include Ebola, MERS-CoV, Yellow Fever and Avian Influenza (H7N9). Dr Balram Bhargava, director general of ICMR, said increasing international travel has raised the chances of these diseases reaching India, so it is important to prepare for emergencies. "Nearly 30,000 Indians live in Uganda, where Ebola has been reported. Some of our troops are also present in the Democratic Republic of Congo, where the viral infection has led to an outbreak situation at present," Dr Bhargava said. Ebola is a highly contagious disease that gets transmitted through bodily fluids and causes haemorrhagic fever with internal and external bleeding. Death occurs in 70% of the cases.

'Couldn't afford to show fear': Kerala's health minister KK Shailaja on dealing with Nipah

23 July 2019/The Indian Express

By the time the call came, the virus had raced ahead. Two brothers were dead, and several others had had their defences infiltrated. "It is Nipah," a senior virologist on the line told KK Shailaja, the Kerala health minister. "It was the first time I had heard of it," she recalls. The night before, on May 18, 2018, Shailaja had been informed of the worrying death of a young man, at a private hospital in Kozhikode. "I set off the next morning from Kannur. On the way, the call came. Till I reached Kozhikode, I Googled and tried to read up. I realised this was a killer virus. There was no medicine, no treatment protocol. We were afraid, but we had to act," says Shailaja. At Changaroth village, home to Mohammad Sabith, the first Nipah victim to whom all but one infections were eventually traced, people were fleeing their homes. Shailaja recalls being counselled against heading to the village. "My team said if the minister catches the virus, everything will collapse. But I said no, people will not listen if you don't go there," she says. Accompanied by another minister, doctors, **ICMR (Indian Council of Medical Research)** officials and Dr Arunkumar, she went to the panchayat office.

Healthcare is linked with the rising number of infections

23 July 2019/Health Gazette

In 2009, a Hepatitis B epidemic occurred in Modasa, northern Gujarat. The virus outbreak was found to be caused by the reuse of contaminated needles. While the case throws light on extreme impacts of healthcare associated infections (HAI), we often gloss over the ongoing risk of infections occurring in hospitals routinely. A patient recounted to me that his mother was once admitted for a fracture repair of a bone in her leg. She was successfully operated on and was discharged promptly. Three days later, she developed a fever and burning sensation while urinating. She was diagnosed with a urinary tract infection, which she got during catheterization during and immediately after the surgery in hospital. While my patient and his

mother suffered from increased suffering and additional costs, consequences of hospital acquired infections are not limited to these. Results of these infections could be extremely grave and fatal, too. India, along with other developing countries, faces unique problems that are uncommon in the developed world. Poor personal hygiene, both in patients and healthcare workers, poor sanitation facilities, overdependence on antibiotics, limited clinical and laboratory testing facilities and poor infection control have led to the emergence of multidrug resistant infections. Over the past several years, some large private and government hospitals have participated in understanding and estimating the prevalence and spread of these infections to gain greater insight on this highly problematic issue and eventually help in the preparation of improved healthcare policies. As a country, we recognize the need for policy and guidance documents to prevent such infections and implement control measures. In fact, in 2016, **Indian Council for Medical Research** issued guidelines for such infection control.



[Scientists call for surveillance against Ebola, nine other viral infections in India](#)

23 July 2019/Moneycontrol

The deadly Ebola virus could pose a threat to public health in India, said scientists from the **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** and the National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) – apex medical research bodies of India, The Times of India has reported. According to the report, scientists have identified 10 emerging viral infections in the country and called for surveillance against these. These viral infections include Ebola. Formerly known as Ebola haemorrhagic fever, it is a rare but severe, often fatal, illness in humans. The virus is transmitted to people from wild animals and spreads in the human population via human-to-human transmission, according to the World Health Organization (WHO). Chances of Ebola reaching India are through international travellers from countries where it has been reported, said the report citing Dr Balram Bhargava, director general of ICMR. According to him, nearly 30,000 Indians live in Uganda, where Ebola has been reported. “Some of our troops are also present in Democratic Republic of Congo (DR Congo), where the viral infection has led to an outbreak situation at present,” he added.

[India CRO Market Industry Sales, Top Brands Share, Recent Developments, Revenue Segmentation by Services Types and CAGR Analysis till 2023](#)

23 July 2019/The Market Plan

A contract research organization (CRO) provides support to the pharmaceutical, biotechnology, and medical device industries for specific services on a contract basis. The services may be clinical research, product development such as drug development or process development such as bio analytical assay development. A CRO may also provide management services such as clinical trials management, and pharmacovigilance. The other factors favoring the market are efforts by the regulatory authorities such as Director Controller General of India (DCGI), **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)**, Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT), Department of Biotechnology (DBT) to create an amenable climate for research in India. The market constraints are growing concern for security especially data security and patient security, lack of collaboration between universities and industry etc. The compromises done by some Indian CROs on

ethical and technical standards are the greatest market threat. Taking all factors into consideration, we expect the India CRO market to reach around \$986.9 Million from \$500 Million in 2017, by the end of the forecast period at a CAGR of ~12.00%. Some of the key players in this market are: Quintiles IMS Holdings, Inc., Syngene, Pharmaceutical Product Development, LLC., Siro Clinpharm, Clininvent Research Pvt. Ltd., VIMTA, Bilcare Limited, Aizant Drug Research Solutions Private Limited, Piramal Pharma Solutions, Synapse Labs Pvt Limited, Eurofins Scientific, Laurus Labs., Neuland Laboratories Ltd, and PAREXEL International Corporation



[Govt initiates new process to identify essential medicines](#)

23 July 2019/Livemint

The prices of some drugs used for treating cancer, cardiac diseases and diabetes are likely to be cut as the government initiates a new process to identify essential medicines and bring some of them under price control. A newly-constituted committee on the National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM) will meet stakeholders on Thursday to shortlist drugs that should be available in adequate numbers and assured quality, according to a senior government official. The NLEM committee, headed by Balram Bhargava, secretary, department of health research and director-general of the **Indian Council of Medical Research**, will decide on essential medicines and send the list to a second committee, comprising Rajiv Kumar, vice-chairman of NITI Aayog, Preeti Sudan, secretary of the health ministry, and P. Raghavendra Rao, secretary of the department of pharmaceuticals, for deciding which ones are to be brought under price control. This is a departure from the existing mechanism in which all essential medicines were brought under price control. Under the previous mechanism, the health ministry prepared a list of drugs eligible for price regulation, following which the department of pharmaceuticals, which comes under the ministry of chemicals and fertilizers, incorporated them into schedule 1 of DPCO (drug price control order). Following this, the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) fixed the prices of drugs in this schedule. "The list, once adopted by the government, would become part of the drug price control order, and hence, the price is regulated," said another government official.

[ICMR launches forum to improve data collection and use](#)

July 24, 2019/The Hindu

The **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)**'s National Institute for Medical Statistics (ICMR-NIMS), in partnership with Population Council, launched the National Data Quality Forum (NDQF) here on Wednesday. NDQF will integrate learnings from scientific and evidence-based initiatives and guide actions through periodic workshops and conferences. Its activities will help establish protocols and good practices of data collection, storage, use and dissemination that can be applied to health and demographic data, as well as replicated across industries and sectors noted a release issued by ICMR. The launch was attended by representatives from the government, academic institutions, technology and developmental partners working towards strengthening the data ecosystem in the country.

ICMR launches platform to boost health data quality in India

July 24, 2019/Business Standard



With an aim to improve the quality of health and demographic data in the country, the **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** on Wednesday launched an integrated national-level platform that can help close the knowledge gap and boost policy formulations. The National Data Quality Forum (NDQF) will integrate learnings from scientific and evidence-based initiatives and guide actions through periodic workshops and conferences, the ICMR said. The NDQF is launched in collaboration between the government research body's National Institute for Medical Statistics and global nonprofit organisation Population Council, it said. The activities of the multi-stakeholder platform will gear towards establishing protocols and good practices when dealing with data collection, storage, use and dissemination, which can be applied to health and demographic data as well as replicated across industries and sectors, the apex medical research body said. ICMR Director M Vishnu Vardhana Rao noted that India has a rich resource of data on its population, health status and demographic behaviour. "India is a data-rich country. We have so many data systems available of the magnitude of 1.3 billion people. We want to put it in one place," Rao said, adding that there were different types of challenges in doing so. This wealth of data is translated into insights and eventually into policy through a layered process involving human and technological inputs at every stage, the official said. Rao, however, noted that these data often suffer from some common challenges related to human and technological factors, affecting its quality.

आईसीएमआर ने स्वास्थ्य आंकड़ों की गुणवत्ता बढ़ाने के लिए बनाया मंच

July 24, 2019/Navbharat Times

देश में सेहत की गुणवत्ता और जनसंख्या अनुपात में सुधार के लिए **भारतीय चिकित्सा शोध परिषद (आईसीएमआर)** ने बुधवार को एक एकीकृत राष्ट्रीय स्तर के मंच (फोरम) का शुभारंभ किया, जिसकी मदद से ज्ञान संबंधी अंतर को कम करने और नीति निर्माण के काम में तेजी लाने में मदद मिलेगी। यह नेशनल डाटा लर्निंग क्वालिटी फोरम (एनडीक्यूएफ) वैज्ञानिक और तथ्य आधारित पहल एवं नियमित होने वाले सम्मेलनों व कार्यशालाओं से मिलने वाले निर्देश कार्यकलापों को एकीकृत करने का काम करेगा। एनडीक्यूएफ को सरकार के शोध संस्थान राष्ट्रीय चिकित्सा सांख्यिकी संस्थान और वैश्विक गैर लाभकारी संस्थान पापुलेशन काउंसिल की मदद से शुरू किया गया है। (यह आर्टिकल एजेंसी फीड से ऑटो-अपलोड हुआ है। इसे नवभारतटाइम्स.कॉम की टीम ने एडिट नहीं किया है।)

Centre's new data forum to prevent errors, discrepancies

July 24, 2019/The Week

Data informs policy. Better policy needs better tools to procure and manage data. Consider the recent case of women in Andhra Pradesh under-reporting sterilisation, as was found out by researchers from the International Institute of Population Sciences in Mumbai. "When asked about their use of family planning methods, the women perceived that it only meant methods such as using oral contraceptives and intrauterine devices, and not sterilisation. We then went back

to the village and told the investigators that they needed to make the women understand what family planning meant," said Professor K.S. James, director, while reflecting on the issues that have cropped up during the collection of data for the National Family Health Survey. James also pointed out other issues in collecting data—for instance, parents tend to be unable to recall the number of vaccines that their children have been given. To better collect, manage and analyse data, the **Indian Council of Medical Research** - National Institute for Medical Statistics (ICMR-NIMS) has launched the National Data Quality Forum, that will integrate learnings from scientific and evidence-based initiatives and guide actions through periodic workshops and conferences. Its activities will gear towards establishing protocols, and good practices when dealing with data collection, storage, use and dissemination that can be applied to health and demographic data and replicated across industries and sectors. Experts say that India has a wide variety of data on health and development indicators, such as the Sample Registration System, NFHS, and National Sample Survey Office, and sometimes, the numbers don't match with each other. For instance, the SRS (2016), and the NFHS (2015-16) report different sex ratios at birth and infant mortality rates, creating a dilemma for policy-makers. According to NSSO (2014), data that is generated at state level "lacks any information" on private sector where about 70 per cent of population seek treatment.



ICMR launches NDQF to improve quality of health and demographic data in India

July 24, 2019/Outlook India

The ICMR's National Institute for Medical Statistics and the Population Council have launched The National Data Quality Forum (NDQF) to generate meaningful dialogue around the improvement of data quality in general, and for health and medical research in particular. The NDQF will integrate learnings from scientific and evidence-based initiatives and guide actions through periodic workshops and conferences, a statement by the **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** said. Its activities will gear towards establishing protocols and good practices for data collection, storage, use and dissemination which can be applied to health and demographic data, as well as replicated across industries and sectors, the statement said. India has a rich resource of data on its population, its health status and demographic behaviour, and economic condition, among many other aspects of life and environment, the statement stated. This wealth of data is translated into insights and, eventually, into policy through a layered process involving human and technological inputs at every stage. However, these data often suffer from some common challenges related to human and technological factors that affect its quality. While in the recent years, data quality improvement efforts have been undertaken in both the public and private sectors at independent institution levels, a convergence of these efforts is yet to be achieved in the form of an integrated platform at the national level that can guide data quality improvement efforts in a cohesive manner, it said.

[ICMR launches platform to boost health data quality](#)

July 24, 2019/Deccan Herald



With an aim to improve the quality of health and demographic data in the country, the **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** on Wednesday launched an integrated national-level platform that can help close the knowledge gap and boost policy formulations. The National Data Quality Forum (NDQF) will integrate learnings from scientific and evidence-based initiatives and guide actions through periodic workshops and conferences, the ICMR said. The NDQF is launched in collaboration between the government research body's National Institute for Medical Statistics and global nonprofit organisation Population Council, it said. The activities of the multi-stakeholder platform will gear towards establishing protocols and good practices when dealing with data collection, storage, use and dissemination, which can be applied to health and demographic data as well as replicated across industries and sectors, the apex medical research body said. ICMR Director M Vishnu Vardhana Rao noted that India has a rich resource of data on its population, health status, and demographic behaviour. "India is a data-rich country. We have so many data systems available of the magnitude of 1.3 billion people. We want to put it in one place," Rao said, adding that were different types of challenges in doing so. This wealth of data is translated into insights and eventually into policy through a layered process involving human and technological inputs at every stage, the official said. Rao, however, noted that these data often suffer from some common challenges related to human and technological factors, affecting its quality. The NDQF hopes to bring together relevant stakeholders, subject matter experts, industry leaders, decision-makers, and data scientists and analysts on a common platform to improve the quality of data that feeds into evidence-based decision making.

[Platform for quality control of data launched](#)

July 24, 2019/The Quint

All data on population, health, demographic behaviour and economic condition, collected by various agencies, will be put through a stringent quality check by the National Data Quality Forum (NDQF), launched here on Wednesday. Speaking on the occasion, Balram Bhargava, Director General of the **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)**, said quality data would be useful in taking any policy decision by the government. "The purpose of this forum is to ensure, not policing, that the data collected by various agencies goes through a certain rigour for quality, with pre-collection planning, collection and post-collection study," said Bhargava. The NDQF will ensure that the data is of high quality and strive to train people collecting and analysing the important data, said Vinod K Paul, NITI Aayog, who launched the website. The NDQF will integrate lessons from scientific and evidence-based initiatives and guide actions through periodic workshops and conferences. Its activities will be geared towards establishing protocols and good practices in data collection, storage, use and dissemination. India has a rich resource of data on its population, health status and demographic behaviour and economic condition, among many other aspects of life and environment. This wealth of data is translated into insights and, eventually, into policy through a layered process involving human and technological inputs at every stage. At times, these data suffer from some common challenges related to human and technological factors and that affect its quality.

ICMR launches NDQF to improve quality of health data

July 24, 2019/Drug Today



The **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)**, in partnership with Population Council, has launched the 'National Data Quality Forum (NDQF)' – to improve quality of health and demographic data in India. “The data forum will integrate learning from scientific and evidence-based initiatives and guide actions through periodic workshops and conferences,” said Dr Balram Bhargava, Director General of ICMR. Dr Bhargava stated, “Its activities will gear towards establishing protocols and good practices when dealing with data collection, storage, use and dissemination that can be applied to health and demographic data, as well as replicated across industries and sectors.” “We are excited about the community of practice that the NDQF is establishing for producers and consumers of data in India and look forward to supporting the Forum wholeheartedly in the years to come,” said Dr Shekhar Shah, DG, National Council of Applied Economic Research. “Our commitment to improving the quality of data that is used for medical research across the world is reflected in its robust analysis, preventive medical treatments and solutions and crisis management strategies,” said Dr Henk Bekedem, WHO Representative to India. With a renewed emphasis on improving the quality of data that feeds into evidence based decision making at different levels, the NDQF hopes to bring together relevant stakeholders, subject matter experts, industry leaders, decision makers, and data scientists / analysts onto a common platform.

Platform for quality control of data launched

July 24, 2019/The Weekend Leader

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[Platform for quality control of data launched](#)

July 24, 2019/daijiworld.com



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[ICMR launches platform to boost health data quality in India](#)

July 24, 2019/Devdiscourse

With an aim to improve the quality of health and demographic data in the country, the **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** on Wednesday launched an integrated national-level platform that can help close the knowledge gap and boost policy formulations. The National Data Quality Forum (NDQF) will integrate learnings from scientific and evidence-based initiatives and guide actions through periodic workshops and conferences, the ICMR said. The NDQF is launched in collaboration between the government research body's National Institute for Medical Statistics and global nonprofit organisation Population Council, it said. The activities of the multi-stakeholder platform will gear towards establishing protocols and good practices when dealing with data collection, storage, use and dissemination, which can be applied to health and demographic data as well as replicated across industries and sectors, the the apex medical research body said. ICMR Director M Vishnu Vardhana Rao noted that India has a rich resource of data on its population, health status and demographic behaviour. "India is a data-rich country. We have so many data systems available of the magnitude of 1.3 billion people. We want to put it in one place," Rao said, adding that were different types of challenges in doing so. This wealth of data is translated into insights and eventually into policy through a layered process involving human and technological inputs at every stage, the official said. Rao, however, noted that these data often suffer from some common challenges related to human and technological factors, affecting its quality.

[Platform for quality control of data launched](#)

July 24, 2019/Newsd



All data on population, health, demographic behaviour and economic condition, collected by various agencies, will be put through a stringent quality check by the National Data Quality Forum (NDQF), launched here on Wednesday. Speaking on the occasion, Balram Bhargava, Director General of the **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)**, said quality data would be useful in taking any policy decision by the government. “The purpose of this forum is to ensure, not policing, that the data collected by various agencies goes through a certain rigour for quality, with pre-collection planning, collection and post-collection study,” said Bhargava.

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[ICMR launches forum to improve data collection and use](#)

July 24, 2019/The World News

The **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)**'s National Institute for Medical Statistics (ICMR-NIMS), in partnership with Population Council, launched the National Data Quality Forum (NDQF) here on Wednesday. NDQF will integrate learnings from scientific and evidence-based initiatives and guide actions through periodic workshops and conferences. Its activities will help establish protocols and good practices of data collection, storage, use and dissemination that can be applied to health and demographic data, as well as replicated across industries and sectors noted a release issued by ICMR. The launch was attended by representatives from the government, academic institutions, technology and developmental partners working towards strengthening the data ecosystem in the country.

[Platform for quality control of data launched](#)

July 24, 2019/canindia.com

All data on population, health, demographic behaviour and economic condition, collected by various agencies, will be put through a stringent quality check by the National Data Quality Forum (NDQF), launched here on Wednesday. Speaking on the occasion, Balram Bhargava, Director General of the **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)**, said quality data would be useful in taking any policy decision

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[India starts collecting data for 5th National Family Health Survey](#)

July 25, 2019/Hindustan Times

India has started collecting data for the 5th National Family Health Survey (NFHS) that provides information on population, health and nutrition for the entire country. "The data collection for the first phase of the survey began about two weeks ago," confirmed Dr KS James, director of Mumbai-based International Institute of Population Sciences (IIPS), which conducts the survey for the government. There are no major additions in the questionnaire from the previous survey, except for the expansion of age-group for determining certain parameters. "All household members will be considered for certain biomarkers such as determining haemoglobin levels. Earlier it was 15 plus. Apart from that, there is no substantial shift in the questionnaire," he said. The survey covers a sample size of 0.7 million households. In the first phase, 50% of the 36 States and union territories will be covered. The survey was to begin last year as after the NFHS-4 results were out for the year 2015-16, the government had decided to conduct the survey every three years instead of the previously followed pattern of 10 years. The results for the first phase will come out by December this year and for the second phase, it should be out by May next year. By mid 2020, the survey results for NFHS-5 are expected to be released. The Indian Council of Medical Research, in partnership with Population Council of India, launched the National Data Quality Forum (NDQF) on Wednesday that aims to strengthen the data ecosystem in the country. "There's a need for complete, consistent, accurate and reliable data in general and for health and medical research in particular. This initiative is a step towards generating reliable data to help in policy-making," said Dr Balram Bhargava, director-general, **ICMR**.

[Platform for quality control of data launched](#)

July 25, 2019/New Kerala

Speaking on the occasion, Balram Bhargava, Director General of the **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)**, said quality data would be useful in taking any policy decision by the government. "The purpose of this forum is to ensure, not policing, that the data collected by various agencies goes through a certain rigour for quality, with pre-collection planning, collection and post-collection study," said Bhargava. The NDQF will ensure that the data is of high quality and strive to train

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ICMR launches platform to boost health

July 25, 2019/The Pioneer

With an aim to improve quality of health and demographic data in India, the **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** on Wednesday launched an integrated national-level platform that can help close the knowledge gap and boost policy formulations. The National Data Quality Forum (NDQF) will integrate learning from scientific and evidence-based initiatives and guide actions through periodic workshops and conferences. “India has a rich resource of data on its population, its health status and demographic behaviour and economic condition among many other aspects of life and environment. This wealth of data is translated into insights and, eventually, into policy through a layered process involving human and technological inputs at every stage. However, these data often suffer from some common challenges related to human and technological factors and affect its quality,” ICMR said in a statement. While in recent year’s data quality improvement efforts have been undertaken in both the public and private sectors at independent institution levels, a convergence of these efforts is yet to be achieved in the form of an integrated platform at the national level that can guide data quality improvement efforts in a cohesive manner, it said. This activity will gear towards establishing protocols and good practices when dealing with data collection, storage, use and dissemination that can be applied to health and demographic data, as well as replicated across industries and sectors.

ICMR Launches NDQF – National Data Quality Forum

July 25, 2019/Medical Dialogues

The **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)**’s National Institute for Medical Statistics (ICMR – NIMS), in partnership with Population Council, launched the National Data Quality Forum (NDQF) in the ICMR Hqrs. The launch was attended by representatives from the government, academic institutions, technology and developmental partners who work towards strengthening the data ecosystem in the country. These included Dr. Vinod k Paul, NITI Aayog Govt. of India, Director General ICMR, Dr. Balram Bhargava, Director General of the National Council of Applied Economic Research, Dr. Shekhar Shah, WHO Representative to India Dr. Henk Bekedem, Director and Senior Professor of the International Institute for Population Sciences, Dr. KS James, Director, ICMR-NIMS, Dr M Vishnu Vardhana Rao, Country Director for Population Council, Dr. Niranjan Saggurti and Country Lead for Measurement, Learning and Evaluation for the Bill and Melinda Gates

Foundation, Dr. Suneeta Krishnan, among others. NDQF will integrate learnings from scientific and evidence-based initiatives and guide actions through periodic workshops and conferences. Its activities will gear towards establishing protocols and good practices when dealing with data collection, storage, use and dissemination that can be applied to health and demographic data, as well as replicated across industries and sectors.



[ICMR – NIMS launch National Data Quality Forum to improve quality of data that feeds into evidence based decision making](#)

July 25, 2019/Express Healthcare

The **Indian Council for Medical Research (ICMR)**'s National Institute for Medical Statistics (ICMR – NIMS), in partnership with Population Council, recently launched the National Data Quality Forum (NDQF) in the ICMR campus. The launch was attended by representatives from the government, academic institutions, technology and developmental partners who work towards strengthening the data ecosystem in the country. These included Director General of ICMR, Dr Balram Bhargava, Director General, National Council of Applied Economic Research, Dr Shekhar Shah, WHO Representative to India, Dr Henk Bekedem, Director and Senior Professor, International Institute for Population Sciences, Dr KS James, Director, ICMR-NIMS, Dr M Vishnu Vardhana Rao, Country Director for Population Council, Dr Niranjan Saggurti and Country Lead for Measurement, Learning and Evaluation for the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Dr. Suneeta Krishnan, among others. NDQF will integrate learnings from scientific and evidence-based initiatives and guide actions through periodic workshops and conferences. Its activities will gear towards establishing protocols and good practices when dealing with data collection, storage, use and dissemination that can be applied to health and demographic data, as well as replicated across industries and sectors. India has a rich resource of data on its population, its health status and demographic behaviour and economic condition among many other aspects of life and environment. This wealth of data is translated into insights and, eventually, into policy through a layered process involving human and technological inputs at every stage. However, these data often suffer from some common challenges related to human and technological factors and affect its quality.

[Why India lacks quality in its demographic and health data?](#)

July 25, 2019/Live Mint

Data on health and demographics in India is plagued by incomplete information, overestimation, and under- and over-reporting that lead to hindrance in policy planning, the **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** has pointed out. To fetch quality data in upcoming health studies and surveys such as National Family Health Survey (NFHS), the National Data Quality Forum (NDQF), formulated by ICMR's National Institute for Medical Statistics (ICMR - NIMS), in partnership with Population Council has identified gaps in data compilation and offered data quality solutions. The NDQF attempted to identify issues in data quality. It found lack of comparability and poor usability of national level data sources, discordance between system and survey level estimates, increased questionnaire length and questions on socially restricted conversation topics that translate to poor data

quality. The NDQF also identified age-reporting errors or non-response and intentional skipping of questions, underreporting due to subjective question interpretation and incompleteness and paucity of data to generate reliable estimates on mortality as major barriers to quality data.



CDSA supports launch of ICMR TB vaccine trial

25 July 2019/BSI bureau

This is the first-ever government led vaccine trial after the BCG vaccine trial that was undertaken decades ago. After a detailed land scape analysis of the available vaccine candidates, two potential vaccines were shortlisted for a **ICMR** led Phase III trial of 12000 healthy house hold contacts of sputum smear positive TB patients. Clinical Development Services Agency (CDSA), launched by Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Ministry of Science & Technology, Government of India in 2009, has provided study start-up support to all sites and oversaw the recruitment and vaccination of the first participant at National Institute of Tuberculosis and Respiratory Diseases (NITRD) New Delhi on 15th July 2019. The trial launch at NITRD, Delhi was attended by Dr. Balram Bhargava, Secretary, DHR & Director General, ICMR, Dr. Rohit Sarin – Director, NITRD, Dr. Manjula Singh- Scientist “E” EDC, ITRC-ICMR project team and CDSA team members - Dr. Monika Bahl, Ms. Shubhra Bansal, Mr. Tarun Puri and Ms. Jinisha Shukla. Dr. Bhargava emphasised the need in India where the disease is endemic for clinical trials to show that the vaccine is safe and effective. Participants will be recruited from twelve sites in six states—Delhi, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Orissa, Tamil Nadu and Telangana. CDSA is an extramural unit of Translational Health Science & Technology Institute (THSTI), Faridabad.

NIMH to be amalgamated with NIOH

25 July 2019/The Hitavada

The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved to dissolve National Institute of Miners’ Health (NIMH) -- of which the Central Laboratory is located in Nagpur -- and ‘merge/amalgamate’ it with ICMR-National Institute of Occupational Health (NIOH). NIMH is an autonomous institute under Ministry of Mines. NIOH is headquartered at Ahmedabad and it functions under Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. As per the Union Cabinet decision, NIMH will be merged/amalgamated with NIOH with all its assets and liabilities. All the employees of NIMH will be absorbed in NIOH in the similar post/payscale as the case may be and their pay be protected. NIMH, **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)**, NIOH, Ministry of Mines, and Department of Health Research under Ministry of Health and Family Welfare have been asked to take actions required for effecting dissolution and merger/amalgamation of NIMH with NIOH. As per the Government decision, the merger/amalgamation of NIMH with NIOH will prove beneficial to both the institutes in terms of enhanced expertise in the field of occupational health besides the efficient management of public money. The decision for the merger has been taken in accordance with the recommendation of Expenditure Management Commission. After taking a review of working and performance of autonomous institutes, the Commission recommended that organisations with similar objectives ‘could be considered for merger to encourage synergy in operations and reduction in cost’. The registered office of NIMH is

located at Kolar Gold Fields, Karnataka, and its Central Laboratory is located in Nagpur. As per the NIMH website, “With inauguration of its Central Laboratory at JNARDDC Campus, Nagpur, the Institute shifted most of its functional units to new campus though it maintains the registered office at Kolar Gold Fields.” NIOH conducts applied research in occupational health and hygiene and specialises in providing technical support services to mining and mineral-based industry with special reference to metalliferous sector and endeavors for safe mines and healthy miners through research and development.



Merger of National Institute of Miners' Health with ICMR-NIOH

25 July 2019/Jagran Josh

Union Cabinet has recently approved the merger of National Institute of Miners' Health (NIMH) with **ICMR** - National Institute of Occupational Health (NIOH). This Union Cabinet was chaired by PM Narendra Modi that approved to dissolve NIMH and merge with ICMR-NIOH, Ahmedabad. This merger will absorb all the working people with NIMH in NIOH in the similar post/pay scale as the case may be and their pay be protected. NIMH, ICMR, NIOH, MoM and Department of Health Research (DHR), MoH&FW to take actions required for effecting dissolution and merger/amalgamation of NIMH with NIOH.

Impact of merger

Since both the institutes are experts in occupational health and this merger/amalgamation will prove beneficial in term of enhanced expertise besides the efficient management of public money.

About NIMH and NIOH

Government of India established NIMH in year 1990 and registered it as Society under the Karnataka Societies Registration Act, 1960. The registered office of NIMH is located at Kolar Gold Fields, Karnataka and the Central Laboratory in Nagpur. NIMH conducts applied research in occupational health and hygiene. Institute has a specialization in providing tech support to mining and mineral based research works.

Cabinet approves merger of National Institute of Miners' Health with ICMR-NIOH

25 July 2019/The Northlines

Union Cabinet has approved the merger of National Institute of Miners' Health with **ICMR** – National Institute of Occupational Health. Briefing reporters after the Cabinet meeting in New Delhi, Information and Broadcasting Minister Prakash Javadekar said, this will be beneficial for both institutes and it is another example of maximum governance and minimum government. He said, this will help both the institutes in terms of enhanced expertise in the field of occupational health besides efficient management of public money. The Cabinet also approved sale of 481.79 acres of land held by Fertilizers and Chemicals Travancore Limited, FACT to the Government of Kerala and utilization of the sale proceeds by FACT. Mr Javadekar said, the decision will help the company in reducing bank borrowings and implementing projects for enhancing fertilizers production capacity and upgrading logistics and raw materials.

[Govt approves merger of NIMH with ICMR-NIOH](#)

25 July 2019/Millennium Post



New Delhi: The government on Wednesday gave the approval to dissolve National Institute of Miners' Health (NIMH) and merge it with **ICMR**-National Institute of Occupational Health. "The Cabinet has approved to dissolve National Institute of Miners' Health (NIMH), an autonomous institute under the Ministry of Mines (MoM) and merge/ amalgamate with ICMR-National Institute of Occupational Health (NIOH), Ahmedabad, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare with all assets and liabilities and absorb all the employees of NIMH in NIOH in similar post/pay scale as the case may be and their pay be protected," Union Minister Prakash Javadekar said while briefing about decision taken by the Cabinet on Wednesday. The merger/amalgamation of NIMH with NIOH will prove beneficial to both the institutes in terms of enhanced expertise in the field of occupational health besides the efficient management of public money, the minister said.

[Meeting on Vector-Borne Diseases at Pasighat in East Siang District of Arunachal Pradesh](#)

25 July 2019/The Sentinel Assam

Itanagar: A team of senior scientist from **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** Dibrugarh, led by Entomologist Dr. Siraj A Khan, have arrived at Pasighat in East Siang district of Arunachal Pradesh to assess the prevalence of vector-borne diseases in the district. State Epidemiologist Dr. Lopsang Jhampa has also come to Pasighat to discuss with the health authorities on the health scenario after the reported detection of over 20 Japanese Encephalitis cases in the district. The visiting team also held a meeting to discuss the health scenario of Vector-Borne Viral Diseases including Dengue, Japanese Encephalitis, and Scrub Typhus at Bakin Pertin General Hospital. The meeting highlighted on data collection and its importance and suggested to follow certain protocols while testing for Japanese Encephalitis. The need to regularize the sale of vaccines and vaccination by drug retailers, including maintaining cold chain was emphasized. Dr. Khan made a powerpoint presentation on vector-borne diseases and elaborately spoke on the disease JE. He explained that JE disease is endemic in Southeast Asian countries including India. Various aspects of Japanese Encephalitis, its mode of transmission, endemicity was exhaustively discussed. Dr. Jhampa also spoke on vector-borne disease including JE, Dengue and the vaccines, an official communique informed.

[NIN launches e-learning modules on nutrition in Hyderabad](#)

27 July 2019/Telangana Today

Hyderabad: In an attempt at encouraging the public to learn more about balanced diet, child-feeding and other relevant issues revolving around nutrition, Hyderabad-based National Institute of Nutrition (NIN), in collaboration with **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)**, has launched a series of e-learning modules. These modules, which are part of Centre's Poshan Abhiyan scheme, also offers ICMR certificates to those who successfully complete the courses. In fact, once a person completes watching the e-modules, they will be awarded ICMR-stamped module and course certificates after they clear a set of questions.

According to authorities, the initiative is essentially aimed at educating people on practical nutritional knowledge pertaining to daily life. The e-learning modules are available on various nutritional themes, including basics of nutrition, child feeding, mother's health and nutrition, anaemia, yoga, food fortification, physical activity, growth monitoring, diarrhoea, WASH (water, sanitation and hygiene), obesity and NCDs. NIN officials said care has been taken to ensure that the modules are highly informative containing valuable scientific information on everyday nutrition. The modules have been designed to be used by everyone across the country.



Do not BAN, regulate sale, use of e-cigarettes, other ENDS devices: Trade representatives of ENDS

27 July 2019/Medical Dialogues

New Delhi: Amid debates, overconsumption of Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems, a voluntary association of trade representatives of ENDS in the country appealed to the Centre and the Delhi government on Wednesday to regulate the sale of e-cigarettes and “not impose a ban” on its use. The association said it has written a fresh letter to Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan and Delhi Health Minister Satyendar Jain, seeking an audience to share the industry's perspective based on “research done on ENDS in the western countries”. ENDS are devices that heat a solution to create an aerosol, which also frequently contains flavours, usually dissolved into propylene glycol and glycerin. There are various types of ENDS devices like e-cigarettes, heat-not-burn devices, vape, e-sheesha, and e-nicotine flavoured hookah, among others. The appeal comes days after the Delhi High Court directed the Kejriwal government to urgently look into the matter of regulating the sale and consumption of e-cigarettes and termed it an “e-burning issue” as the damage was being caused to children, who have started consuming these products. Besides, apex research body **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** had recently recommended a “complete” ban on ENDS, including e-cigarettes, saying their use can initiate nicotine addiction among non-smokers. Praveen Rikhy, a convener of the Trade Representatives of ENDS in India (TRENDS), interacting with reporters here, claimed that instead of banning it, both the central and state governments should consider regulating its sale and consumption. “Studies done by a few research institutions in the west have shown that consumption of e-cigarettes, which contain far less harmful products, can help a smoker slowly give up smoking instead of relapsing to smoking cigarettes,” she claimed.

Revised Recommended Dietary Allowances by 2019-end: NIN

27 July 2019/Telangana Today

Hyderabad: The revised Recommended Dietary Allowances (RDA) for Indians, being drafted by the National Institute of Nutrition (NIN), a premier research institute under Indian Council of Medical Research, for the first time proposes use of Estimated Average Requirement (EAR) and Tolerable Upper Limit (TUL). Until now, a single value, RDA was used for all nutrients. Over the years the nutrient requirements have evolved so that they can be specifically used for individuals or populations, **ICMR-NIN** Director Hemalatha R said. The present recommendations propose the use of the EAR for evaluating population nutrient intake and the RDA for setting the safe nutrient intake for an individual, she explained. “We have generated new information as far as calorie and protein requirement is concerned.

In the earlier RDAs, they did not calculate for EAR. This time we are attempting that. The present RDA is also going to include TUL,” she said. Now the government is planning fortification of some foods with nutrients and therefore, the TUL of intake for nutrients has also been defined, she said. On the need for revision of RDA, Hemalatha said over the past decade dietary patterns have changed with economic and nutrition transition occurring. Nutrient requirements have to be reviewed with respect to recent data on energy expenditure, protein metabolism and in case of minerals and vitamins data on losses and absorption need to be explored to derive EAR and RDA, according to her. The previous revision of RDA was done in 2011. By the end of 2019, the revised RDA will be brought out, she said. “The earlier RDAs are under review and now the chapters have been sent for expert reviews and once the recommendations are ready they will be finalised and published,” Hemalatha said.



Govt constitutes committee for regulation of medical devices

27 July 2019/Daily Excelsior

NEW DELHI, July 26: The Union Health Ministry has constituted a committee which will advise the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) regarding strengthening of medical devices regulations in the country and also examine issues relating to their implementation. Bringing majority of medical devices under regulation is high on the agenda of the ministry in the second tenure of the Modi Government with some incidents of adverse reactions and impacts coming to light with the use of medical devices. “The aim is to strengthen the regulations to make medical device companies accountable for quality and safety of their products,” a senior official said. Recently, global pharma giant Johnson and Johnson was directed to pay compensation to the patients who received faulty hip implants made by the firm. The Union health ministry is already working towards including new provisions to the Drugs and Cosmetics Act to introduce a compensation plan for patients suffering from adverse reactions due to faulty devices or implants. The meeting will be called by DCGI at least once in four months at CDSCO headquarters. DTAG members comprises representatives from Department of Science and Technology(DST), National Institute of Biologicals (NIB), **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)**, Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB), Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS); IIT, New Delhi, Department of Electronics and Information Technology (DEITY), National Health Systems Resource Centre (NHSRC) and Association of Diagnostics Manufacturers of India (ADMI) among others. The committee also has Dr Sandeep Bansal, HOD, Cardiology, VMMC and Safdarjung Hospital, Dr S N Bhattacharya, head, Department of Dermatology, University College of Medical Sciences, New Delhi, Dr Vijay Kumar Jain, associate professor, Department of Orthopaedics, RML Hospital, New Delhi, Dr Arjun Ahuja, head, Seth G S Medical College and KEM Hospital, Mumbai as members. (PTI).

Cytecare Cancer Hospitals Launches CANCON 2019

27 July 2019/Business Wire India

Bengaluru, Karnataka, India: CANCON 2019, the 3rd edition of scientific deliberations on head and neck cancer management, powered by Cytecare Cancer Hospitals in Bengaluru, commenced on a pleasantly unusual note. Nalini Satyanarayan, 70, played the flute through her stoma (a hole in the neck) before a delighted audience, comprising 250 head and neck cancer experts from across India. Diagnosed with throat cancer in 2009, Nalini Satyanarayana had lost her

voice box and her ability to speak. However, a timely surgery and her spirited attitude helped the septuagenarian win the battle against cancer.



The two-day CANCON 2019, started on July 27th 2019, at Royal Orchid Resort & Convention Centre, Bengaluru, brought together India's finest healthcare professionals in otolaryngology, maxillofacial and general surgery, surgical, radiation and medical oncology, pain and palliative medicine, speech and swallowing pathology, and other practitioners with special interest in head and neck oncology. As practitioners of researched cancer care methodologies, the multidisciplinary team of clinicians at Cytecare is strongly guided by national as well as global protocols, such as the National Comprehensive Cancer Network (NCCN), European Society for Medical Oncology (ESMO), National Health Service (NHS), **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** and Tata Memorial Hospital.

SMS Hospital flouts rules by seeking religion for research work

28 July 2019/Times of India

JAIPUR: SMS Hospital, which has claimed that patients' religion is being asked for research and study purposes, appears to be violating the **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** norms. The hospital has not disclosed about its research and study purposes in the registration forms required to be filled by the patients. The ICMR has 'ethical guidelines for biomedical and health research involving human participants' for medical colleges and hospitals. The ICMR ethical guidelines do not mention religion even once. In fact, one of the 12 general principles mentioned in the guidelines emphasizes that, "research should be planned and conducted so as to avoid creation or deepening of social divisions or in a way as to not disturb social harmony in community relationships". Following the controversy, SMS Medical College principal Dr Sudhir Bhandari and SMS Hospital superintendent Dr DS Meena backtracked on religion-based registration on Saturday. "I don't know from where these printouts of forms have come. Ask the superintendent of SMS Hospital," said Dr Bhandari. SMS Hospital superintendent Dr DS Meena said, "It is not my initiative, it is part of the government's IT programme Arogya, for monitoring diseases. Also, the filling up of these forms is not mandatory." On the directions of SMS Medical College, the SMS Hospital introduced a new form for pre-treatment registration that required patients to disclose their religion. The same system was to be introduced in all hospitals attached to the SMS Medical College.

Road safety a combined responsibility

28 July 2019/Daily Excelsior

Road safety is one of the most important topics and is often deliberated almost at all forums. General awareness about road safety measures is spread through various fields of activities but accidents do happen and precious lives are getting lost on daily basis and many a time serious injuries due to accident culminates into life long disability. Approx five lakhs accidents take place in our country yearly and approx one lakh fifty thousands people lose their lives and some three lakhs sustain serious injuries. Non following of the traffic rules and non taking of the road safety measures is the cause of these accidents. The scenario in Jammu and Kashmir is all the more grim when we talk of road accidents which are almost double than the ongoing conflict in the state. The J&K Government data will certainly astonish every one that approx ten thousand people died of the road accidents over the last one decade. In the year 2018 alone, 908 people died in 5528 accidents across the State. J&K has recorded the highest number of fatalities in a

decade as compared to other states of the Indian Union. As per the study conducted by **Indian Council of Medical research** in 2017, spread over to the year 1996 to 2016, Jammu and Kashmir tops the list of casualties as well as disabilities due to road accidents. Recently a road accident in Kishtwar took thirty five lives and in another accident in Udhampur city itself, innocent commuters on the road side became victim of an over speeding matador trying to overtake another Matador. The unfortunate deaths of hundreds of people every year bring shock to the families of victims of these road accidents and many of them happen to be lone bread earners of the family, causing irreparable loss to the family which suffers for the whole life.



[After 36 years of testing, Indian-made leprosy vaccine finally set for large roll-out](#)

28 July 2019/Daily Excelsior

New York: The world's only exclusive vaccine against leprosy was developed in India in the early 1970s. But the country continues to report 60 per cent of leprosy cases across the world today. Also known as Hansen's disease, leprosy is caused by bacteria called Mycobacterium leprae (M. leprae). It mainly affects the skin and nerves, and can cause deformities and disabilities as long-term consequences, which is why there's a stigma associated with this disease. The exact mechanism of transmission is not clearly understood, but contact with a patient is one of the major modes. Leprosy is common in certain pockets of India, and efforts are being focused on prevention and spreading awareness in these regions. And after decades of testing, the vaccine is finally ready for a roll-out. Recently, the Indian Council for Medical Research set up an expert committee to strategise on the roll-out of the vaccine, which recommended that it be launched nationwide, targeting major endemic pockets, and cover the entire country by 2 October 2019.

[Coronary artery disease on a rise in young Indians](#)

28 July 2019/The Statesman

There has been a rise in the incidence of coronary artery disease (CAD) in young Indians, according to recent statistics. Over 50% of cardiovascular disease mortality is seen to occur in individuals below 50 years of age, say experts. According to the **ICMR** State Level Disease Burden Report, among all age groups, the prevalence of heart disease has increased by over 50% from 1990 to 2016 in India, with an increase observed in every state. Heart disease contributed 17.8% of total deaths of total deaths. Thanks to a sedentary lifestyle and unhealthy habits, heart diseases are affecting young Indians 10 years ahead of their Western counterparts. A survey indicates that about 7% of patients between 25 and 40 years of age are found to be suffering from CAD — a condition that impacts the flow of blood to the heart. If the heart doesn't get adequate oxygen-rich blood then its condition starts deteriorating, putting a person at enhanced risk of heart attack. Dr Manoj Kumar, Director & Head – Cardiac Cath Lab, Max Super Specialty Hospital, Patparganj, New Delhi, said, "People who have a family history of heart diseases are more likely to have high levels of calcium build-up in their arteries. Coronary Artery Disease occurs when the arteries supplying blood to the heart muscle become hardened and narrowed. This is due to the buildup of cholesterol and other material, called plaque, on their inner walls and is called atherosclerosis. As it grows, less blood flows through the arteries. As a result, the heart muscle can't get the blood or oxygen it needs. This can lead to chest pain (angina) or a

heart attack. Blockage in the arteries can develop from a young age. Apart from timely diagnosis and treatment, precautions and lifestyle changes at an early age can help save lives, says Dr Ashwani Mehta, Senior Cardiologist, Sir Ganga Ram Hospital, New Delhi. Wrong lifestyle choices are making youngsters fall prey to obesity, poor diet, physical inactivity, smoking, and excessive alcohol use. An unhealthy lifestyle can cause build-up of plaque in the arteries which supply blood to the heart and cause them to become hardened and narrow, he says.

Antibiotic resistance: it's all in the misuse

28 July 2019/Deccan Herald

Is there anyone who has never taken an antibiotic? The answer, of course, is 'no'. From common cold to life threatening infections like sepsis, antibiotics are taken either with or without prescription. Here are some questions and statements most of us can relate to. Why shouldn't I take antibiotics if I have infections like sore throat or diarrhoea? Why don't some infections get better despite taking antibiotics? My friend got better, so I bought the same antibiotic from my next door pharmacist. Aren't antibiotics supposed to be a "panacea" for all infections? Answer to all these questions is a 'no'. Antibiotics are meant to be given only for treatment of infections caused by bacteria; they don't help in viral infections. Each case scenario is likely to be different and the drug-bug combination varies; so an antibiotic that helped your friend may not help in treating your infection. Antibiotics are not a panacea for all infections, and in the present scenario, probably not even for all bacterial infections because bacteria have developed increased resistance to antibiotics! It is estimated that about 10 million people are likely to die annually by 2050 due to complications related to antibiotic resistance. There are two scenarios. First, when you take antibiotic for infections not caused by bacteria, the antibiotic comes in contact with commensal (good) bacteria in your gut and kills some of the susceptible ones, leaving behind resistant ones. These resistant commensal bacteria, in due course, increase in number and lead to further spread of antibiotic resistance to infection-causing bacteria. Two out of three healthy Indians tested, were found to harbour antibiotic resistant bugs in their gut, according to a recent study published by **ICMR**.

ICMR launches National Data Quality Forum

29 July 2019/Deccan Herald

The **Indian Council of Medical Research** (ICMR)'s National Institute for Medical Statistics (ICMR - NIMS), in partnership with Population Council, has launched the National Data Quality Forum (NDQF). The launch was attended by representatives from the government, academic institutions, technology and developmental partners who work towards strengthening the data ecosystem in the country. NDQF will integrate learnings from scientific and evidence-based initiatives and guide actions through periodic workshops and conferences. Its activities will gear towards establishing protocols and good practices when dealing with data collection, storage, use and dissemination that can be applied to health and demographic data, as well as replicated across industries and sectors. "We are delighted to launch the National Data Quality Forum and embark upon a fruitful collaboration to generate meaningful dialogue around the improvement of data quality in general, and for health and medical research in particular," said Prof. (Dr.) Balram Bhargava, Director General of the Indian Council of Medical Research. With a renewed emphasis on improving the quality of data that feeds into evidence

based decision making at different levels, the NDQF hopes to bring together relevant stakeholders, subject matter experts, industry leaders, decision makers, and data scientists / analysts onto a common platform. This platform will be guided by the direction provided by a high level steering committee and operationalized with the help of a technical advisory group composed of subject matter experts. With a mandate to create a dialogue for data quality, and build a like-minded community of practice



[ICMR guidelines to fill gene therapy gap](#)

29 July 2019/Deccan Herald

With India having an estimated 70-90 million people with genetic disorders, the **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** has come out with draft guidelines to help develop appropriate gene therapies for such diseases. Even though gene therapy has emerged as a potential treatment option for disorders that involve malfunctioning of a single gene as well as rare genetic diseases, there is barely any policy prescription in India to guide the research agenda and suggest regulatory requirements to scientists and companies developing such therapies. The ICMR guidelines on gene therapy product development and clinical trials — prepared in collaboration with the Directorate General of Health Services and the Department of Biotechnology — seeks to fill the gap. “It provides for basic guidance for research involving human participants, including clinical trials, pertaining to the broad area of gene therapy covering all the technologies and processes. Disease-specific guidelines will subsequently be developed as part of standard operating procedures for different conditions,” it says. “It’s a guideline to help researchers and regulators as gene therapy is an emerging technology. It will facilitate the clearance of such therapies by the Drugs Controller General of India. The draft would be finalised after receiving public comments,” Renu Swarup, secretary, Department of Biotechnology, told DH.

[India’s big battle of the bulge](#)

29 July 2019/DNA India

In these hectic days, where social media has become the country’s principal pre-occupation, the time for physical exercise is shockingly scanty. No surprise then that there is an outbreak of lifestyle diseases such as heart ailments, diabetes and obesity that plague the country’s middle-aged population across the economic divide, a trend that was once only the prerogative of the rich and super-rich. Oscar Wilde’s epigrammatic expression of treating all trivial things very seriously and all serious things of life with sincere and studied triviality, applies to India of today more than anywhere else. In the ongoing Parliament session, when a question was asked in the Lok Sabha by BJP MP, Rathva Gitaben Vajesingbhai, as to whether the incidence of obesity is increasing among not only among the middle-aged, but also the youth in urban areas, the minister of state of health and family welfare, Ashwini Kumar Choubey, revealed some eye-popping details. Citing the **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** report on the health of the nation’s states, he said that the contribution of high body mass index (BMI) in total disability-adjusted life year (DALY) of India has increased from 0.8% in 1990 to 3.6% in 2016.

HIV Status: Women Leave Behind Men In Assam

29 July 2019/The Sentinel Assam



GUWAHATI: In an interesting development, women have left behind men to know their HIV status in Assam. “Women are more aware and cautious about their health than their male counterparts. The number of women coming forward for screening and testing of HIV infections to government hospitals is double than men. The development will go a long way in creating massive awareness about HIV and AIDS since women can influence their other family members to go for such screening and tests,” an expert at Assam State AIDS Control Society said. The expert said even though new HIV infections are seen more among women than men in the State, the development has not become a major cause of worry and concern for doctors. He said increase in the number of new HIV infections in the State can mostly attributed to the fact that women are coming forward for screening and testing to know their HIV status. The doctor advocated that it should be made mandatory to declare Human immunodeficiency virus status of both man and woman before they get married to prevent the risk of getting infected by the fatal virus in future. The latest reports of National AIDS Control Organization (NACO) and **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** find that Assam, Meghalaya and Mizoram have a high rate of annual new HIV infection trend with each State reporting an increase of 37, 10 and 18 per cent respectively.

ICMR launches National Data Quality Forum

29 July 2019/BSI bureau

The **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)**'s National Institute for Medical Statistics (ICMR - NIMS), in partnership with Population Council, has launched the National Data Quality Forum (NDQF). The launch was attended by representatives from the government, academic institutions, technology and developmental partners who work towards strengthening the data ecosystem in the country. NDQF will integrate learnings from scientific and evidence-based initiatives and guide actions through periodic workshops and conferences. Its activities will gear towards establishing protocols and good practices when dealing with data collection, storage, use and dissemination that can be applied to health and demographic data, as well as replicated across industries and sectors. “We are delighted to launch the National Data Quality Forum and embark upon a fruitful collaboration to generate meaningful dialogue around the improvement of data quality in general, and for health and medical research in particular,” said Prof. (Dr.) Balram Bhargava, Director General of the Indian Council of Medical Research. With a renewed emphasis on improving the quality of data that feeds into evidence based decision making at different levels, the NDQF hopes to bring together relevant stakeholders, subject matter experts, industry leaders, decision makers, and data scientists / analysts onto a common platform. This platform will be guided by the direction provided by a high level steering committee and operationalized with the help of a technical advisory group composed of subject matter experts. With a mandate to create a dialogue for data quality, and build a like-minded community of practice

Future epidemics: The list goes on

29 July 2019/Hyderabad



India is no stranger to infectious diseases. Conditions such as malaria, HIV, and tuberculosis (TB) have long plagued the country. However, there are a myriad of conditions which have either not yet hit the Indian shores or are otherwise geographically isolated. Any number of these conditions could reach epidemic proportions if left to spread unchecked. India has shown recently aptitude in the containment of infectious disease outbreaks. With the recent announcement from Kerala that an outbreak of Nipah virus has been successfully contained, this marks the second time in two years that India has rapidly contained an outbreak within a month of its onset. Nonetheless, it is important that India is vigilant against emerging infectious conditions in the years ahead. Scientists from the **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** and the National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) have recently compiled a list of ten diseases with the potential to spark future epidemics in India. Ebola is perhaps one of the most prominent concerns of the list. The disease is currently running rampant throughout the civil war-ravaged Democratic Republic of the Congo. Due to conflicts resulting from the war, treatment efforts have been impeded and the disease is beginning to breach the borders into neighbouring nations such as Uganda. Dr Balram Bhargava, director general of the ICMR, said “nearly 30,000 Indians live in Uganda, where Ebola has been reported. Some of our troops are also present in the Democratic Republic of Congo, where the viral infection has led to an outbreak situation at present.”

Loksabha passes The National Medical Commission Bill, 2019; Read Bill & its Salient features

29 July 2019/Legal Desire News Network

Constitution of the National Medical Commission: The Bill sets up the National Medical Commission (NMC). Within three years of the passage of the Bill, state governments will establish State Medical Councils at the state level. The NMC will consist of 25 members, appointed by the central government. A Search Committee will recommend names to the central government for the post of Chairperson, and the part time members. The Search Committee will consist of seven members including the Cabinet Secretary and five experts nominated by the central government (of which three will have experience in the medical field). Members of the NMC will include: (i) the Chairperson (must be a medical practitioner), (ii) Presidents of the Under-Graduate and Post-Graduate Medical Education Boards, (iii) the Director General of Health Services, Directorate General of Health Services, (iv) the Director General, **Indian Council of Medical Research**, and (v) five members (part-time) to be elected by the registered medical practitioners from amongst themselves from states and union territories for a period of two years. **Functions of the National Medical Commission:** Functions of the NMC include: (i) framing policies for regulating medical institutions and medical professionals, (ii) assessing the requirements of healthcare related human resources and infrastructure, (iii) ensuring compliance by the State Medical Councils of the regulations made under the Bill, (iv) framing guidelines for determination of fees for up to 50% of the seats in private medical institutions and deemed universities which are regulated under the Bill.

[Gastric Cancer Therapy Market 2019 to Expand at a CAGR of 13% by 2023: Top-most Competitor Analysis Covering Market Demand, Market Share, Market Size & Growth, Complete Industry Overview](#)



29 July 2019/Market Reporter

“Gastric Cancer Therapy Market Report 2019-2023” helps the consumer to take business decisions and to understand strategies of major players in the industry. The report also calls for market-determined results deriving feasibility survey for consumer needs. Global Gastric Cancer Therapy Market Report ensures qualified and verifiable aspects of market data operating in the real-time scenario. The analytical studies are conducted ensuring consumer needs with a complete understanding of market capacities in the real-time scenario. Gastric Cancer Therapy market reports provide a comprehensive overview of the worldwide market size and share. Gastric Cancer Therapy market data reports also provide a 5-year historic, forecast for the sector, and include data on social-economic data of global. Key stakeholders can consider statistics, tables & figures mentioned in this report for strategic planning which lead to success of the organization. According to a report published by Indian Council of Medical Research in 2014, gastric cancer is the fourth leading cancer in the world, accounting for 736,000 deaths. Around 1 million new cases of gastric cancer and 0.7 million deaths due to gastric cancer are reported every year. Age-standardized incidence rates are approximately twice as high in men as in women. Presently, gastric cancer is more common in Asia, than in the United States or Europe. Notably, 42% of cases occur in China alone. Thus, increasing incidence of gastric cancer, coupled with strong drug pipeline, and introduction of novel therapies for metastatic stomach cancer, across the world, are likely to drive the market for gastric cancer therapy.

[‘Biotech R&D makes India hub of quality drugs, vaccines’: Trevor Mundel of Gates foundation](#)

30 July 2019/Hindustan Times

Trevor Mundel is the president of Global Health at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and leads the Foundation’s efforts to develop high-impact interventions against the leading causes of death and disability in low- and middle-income countries. He also manages cross-cutting product development programmes, including discovery & translational sciences, innovative technology solutions, and vaccine development in close collaboration with an international network of grantees, partners and governments. In India to deliver a talk on Innovating for impact: How India can solve some of the world’s toughest health challenges at the All-India Institute of Medical Sciences on Monday, he speaks to Sanchita Sharma on India’s leadership in developing high quality, safe and effective vaccines and drugs and its potential to offer digital global health solutions. On this trip, I’m visiting some people who are working in the AI space, like the Wadhvani AI group in Mumbai that is developing pioneering mobile phone-based tools to diagnose the 1 million tuberculosis cases that go unidentified in India each year. There are two stages of this evolution. The first is the actual digital implementation of tools that were implemented by hand. **ICMR (Indian Council of Medical Research)** has this wonderful integration of care pathways that have been distilled on one page.

First time in state, superbug cases identified in Mysuru

30 July 2019/Daijiworld



Presence of *Candida Auris*, the superbug, which has been threatening to play havoc with the healthcare systems in USA and Europe, has been found among two persons from the city. Umamaheshwari, who is pursuing post-doctoral degree in microbiology under Prof Shubha Gopal of Mysore University and head of the department of microbiology, Prof M S Sumana of JSS College, have found the superbug for the first time in the city. The superbug made its appearance among two patients who have undergone surgery at JSS Hospital here. Samples of seven other suspected cases have been sent to Chandigarh laboratory for testing. Superbug was first detected in Japan in 2009 after which it was detected in 2011 at New Delhi. Thereafter it had given rise to lot of tensions in Chennai and north India. India has been on high alert since 2017, taking cue from a number of deaths caused in other countries on account of superbug. **Indian Council of Medical Research**, in 2017, had issued notification, seeking every incident of superbug to its notice.

ICMR-run Nari to help Bangladesh establish research centre

31 July 2019/Hindustan Times

The government of Bangladesh, on July 25, visited **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)**-run institutes, National Aids Research Institute and National Institute of Virology, seeking training and education to establish a national research centre. The reason that prompted Bangladesh, to seek mentorship from these institutes, is the rising immigration from Myanmar to Bangladesh and rising health concerns. The visit was led by the joint secretary, ministry of family welfare and medical education of Bangladesh Suleman Khan. According to officials at Indian Council of Medical Research, the Bangladesh delegation requested India to provide mentorship and capacity building assistance so that they can develop their national research centre called Bangamata National Cellular and Molecular Research Center and also work on multi-faceted programmes, where new emerging viruses can be fought.

Drug-resistant HIV found in 12 countries in WHO survey, poses threat to India too

31 July 2019/ThePrint

New Delhi: A new report by the World Health Organization (WHO) has revealed alarming rise in resistance to crucial HIV drugs. The report states that HIV resistance against the two vital drugs — efavirenz and nevirapine — has surpassed acceptable levels in 12 countries in Africa, Asia and the Americas. While the report doesn't mention India, both drugs are used in the country. It may result in millions of deaths, increase in new and hard-to-treat infections as well as higher health-care costs. The report presents findings from 44 surveys conducted in 24 low and middle-income countries between 2014 and 2018 using WHO standard methods. While the report does not have any current data from India, HIV drug resistance can pose challenges for the country too, said Dr Raman R. Gangakhedkar, who heads the Indian Council of Medical Research's **(ICMR)** Division of Epidemiology and Communicable Diseases. A review of studies published last year, conducted by Gangakhedkar's team at ICMR's National AIDS Research Institute in Pune, has shown a rising trend in mutations that make HIV resistant to existing therapies.

[RS members demand cancer detection and treatment centres in all districts](#)

31 July 2019/Livemint



New Delhi: Demand for more cancer detection and treatment centres to tackle swelling burden of the disease in India was a point of discussion in Rajya Sabha on Wednesday. Members of various political parties called for more such centres in every district of the country so that the problem can be mitigated for the poor suffering from the disease. They also demanded for more spending on healthcare for improving cancer treatment and detection facilities and reducing the cost of cancer treatment for the poor. Citing various reasons for the disease including lifestyle, contamination in food products and water and excessive use of polythene and radiation through mobile phones, Vishmabhar Prasad Nishad from Samajwadi Party said cancer is the worst disease in the world and its incidence is fast increasing in India. "The World Health Organization (WHO) has warned that a major part of India's population will be afflicted with cancer and steps are required to be taken by the government. While the rich can get themselves treated abroad, it is the poor who have to suffer the most and the government needs to step up its efforts in this regard," he said. More than 11,57,294 new cancer patients are registered every year. In 2018, 413,519 men and 371,302 women died of cancer, according to the **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)**. Apart from this, 9.81% of men and 9.42% of women are at risk of developing cancer before 75 years of age.

[Centre's hypertension control initiative prog expanded to 100 districts](#)

July 31, 2019/The Times of India

To accelerate implementation of quality treatment for hypertension among Indians and prevent deaths from heart attack, stroke and kidney failure, the government announced on Wednesday the expansion of its India Hypertension Control Initiative (IHCI) to 100 districts covering all the states. According to government data, uncontrolled high blood pressure or hypertension is the most common reason for sudden heart attack and is a leading cause of death in the country. One in four adults have high blood pressure in India. Among people with high blood pressure, only half have been diagnosed and only 1 in 10 have blood pressure under control. As a result, a large number of people suffer heart attacks, strokes, and kidney failure while in the productive years of life, a health ministry official said. IHCI's expansion is being done by the **Indian Council of Medical Research** in collaboration with the World Health Organisation and the Health Ministry. Launched in November 2017, IHCI has enrolled more than three lakh patients with high blood pressure in government health facilities in 25 selected districts in Punjab, Madhya Pradesh, Kerala, Telangana, and Maharashtra. "Now IHCI will expand to 100 districts across India covering all the states. The project will accelerate the implementation of quality hypertension treatment for over 15 crore people over the next four years and prevent deaths from heart attack, stroke and kidney failure," the official said.

[Govt aims to treat nearly 150mn high BP patients over next four years](#)

July 31, 2019/Hindustan Times

India aims to treat at least 150 million people with high blood pressure (BP) with medicine across 100 districts over the next four years. Uncontrolled hypertension

or high BP is a leading risk factor for heart attack, stroke and kidney failure. According to government data, an estimated 200 million adults nationwide have high BP, but 50% of them are totally clueless about it.



Last year, the **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)**, along with World Health Organization (WHO), had launched India Hypertension Control Initiative (IHCI) in 25 districts across five states, which will be expanded to 100 districts over the next four years. "The national action plan targets reducing the number of people with uncontrolled hypertension by 25% by the year 2025. The IHCI is a model initiative towards that as prevention and treatment is far safer and less expensive than bypass surgery and regular dialysis," said Dr Balram Bhargava, director general, ICMR. Under the IHCI, every person above 30 years of age walking into a primary health centre or a sub-centre and also health and wellness centres will be screened for high blood pressure. The five states that are already screening people under the programme, and have registered about 3 lakh people in the past one year are Telangana, Punjab, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Kerala. "India has a huge disease burden wherein one in four suffers from hypertension. What's worse, however, is that only one in 10 of those has blood pressure under control.

[Centre's hypertension control initiative prog expanded to 100 districts](#)

July 31, 2019/Business Standard

To accelerate implementation of quality treatment for hypertension among Indians and prevent deaths from heart attack, stroke and kidney failure, the government announced on Wednesday the expansion of its India Hypertension Control Initiative (IHCI) to 100 districts covering all the states. According to government data, uncontrolled high blood pressure or hypertension is the most common reason for sudden heart attack and is a leading cause of death in the country.

One in four adults have high blood pressure in India. Among people with high blood pressure, only half have been diagnosed and only 1 in 10 have blood pressure under control. As a result, a large number of people suffer heart attacks, strokes, and kidney failure while in the productive years of life, a health ministry official said. IHCI's expansion is being done by the **Indian Council of Medical Research** in collaboration with the World Health Organisation and the Health Ministry. Launched in November 2017, IHCI has enrolled more than three lakh patients with high blood pressure in government health facilities in 25 selected districts in Punjab, Madhya Pradesh, Kerala, Telangana, and Maharashtra. "Now IHCI will expand to 100 districts across India covering all the states. The project will accelerate the implementation of quality hypertension treatment for over 15 crore people over the next four years and prevent deaths from heart attack, stroke and kidney failure," the official said.

[Centre targets reducing number of high BP patients by a quarter by 2025](#)

July 31, 2019/The Week

At least that's what the Union health ministry is planning, in its effort to achieve an ambitious target of 25 per cent reduction in those suffering from high blood pressure. This, the ministry plans to reach by 2025. To that end, the Centre is planning to scale up its India Hypertension Control Initiative to 100 districts, with at least two districts in each state covered under the screening, treatment and control of high BP programme. The IHCI, a joint venture between the **Indian Council of Medical Research**, WHO and the Union health ministry, was launched in November 2017 in 25 districts in five states. More than three lakh patients with

high blood pressure were enrolled in government health facilities in the states of Punjab, Madhya Pradesh, Kerala, Telangana and Maharashtra. Buoyed by the "positive" results from the programme in controlling the disease in these patients —albeit with a lot of challenges—the ICMR is planning to take the programme to 75 more districts, across the country. The task before them is huge, according to Dr Prabhdeep Kaur, who is part of the core team of the IHCI and a senior scientist at ICMR. "Going by the government's own survey, 20 crore people in the country are suffering from high BP. Out of these, 10 crore people are not aware of their ailment. Among those who are aware of their disease, the big problem is that they wouldn't take medication, or even if they take medication, they fall out of the follow-up process, or they take different medicines that affects their treatment," Kaur said. To resolve some of these issues, the IHCI has a ready treatment protocol including the three medicines that patients are to be given by a doctor at a primary centres, the specifications for procuring good quality BP monitors for accurate readings and the correct process of diagnosing high blood pressure. To design the programme, Kaur said that the scientists at ICMR looked at various models, including the one that is followed in Thailand, with the best detection and control rates for high blood pressure in the world.

Centre's hypertension control initiative prog expanded to 100 districts

July 31, 2019/The Week

To accelerate implementation of quality treatment for hypertension among Indians and prevent deaths from heart attack, stroke and kidney failure, the government announced on Wednesday the expansion of its India Hypertension Control Initiative (IHCI) to 100 districts covering all the states. According to government data, uncontrolled high blood pressure or hypertension is the most common reason for sudden heart attack and is a leading cause of death in the country. One in four adults have high blood pressure in India. Among people with high blood pressure, only half have been diagnosed and only 1 in 10 have blood pressure under control. As a result, a large number of people suffer heart attacks, strokes, and kidney failure while in the productive years of life, a health ministry official said. IHCI's expansion is being done by the **Indian Council of Medical Research** in collaboration with the World Health Organisation and the Health Ministry. Launched in November 2017, IHCI has enrolled more than three lakh patients with high blood pressure in government health facilities in 25 selected districts in Punjab, Madhya Pradesh, Kerala, Telangana, and Maharashtra. "Now IHCI will expand to 100 districts across India covering all the states. The project will accelerate the implementation of quality hypertension treatment for over 15 crore people over the next four years and prevent deaths from heart attack, stroke and kidney failure," the official said. IHCI is a five-year initiative which aims to accelerate India's efforts to check non-communicable disease (NCD) target by strengthening hypertension management and control using evidence-based strategies. An estimated 20 crore people nationwide have high blood pressure but fewer than 2 crore have it under control.

Centre's hypertension control initiative prog expanded to 100 districts

July 31, 2019/Outlook India

To accelerate implementation of quality treatment for hypertension among Indians and prevent deaths from heart attack, stroke and kidney failure, the government announced on Wednesday the expansion of its India Hypertension Control

Initiative (IHCI) to 100 districts covering all the states. According to government data, uncontrolled high blood pressure or hypertension is the most common reason for sudden heart attack and is a leading cause of death in the country. One in four adults have high blood pressure in India. Among people with high blood pressure, only half have been diagnosed and only 1 in 10 have blood pressure under control. As a result, a large number of people suffer heart attacks, strokes, and kidney failure while in the productive years of life, a health ministry official said. IHCI's expansion is being done by the **Indian Council of Medical Research** in collaboration with the World Health Organisation and the Health Ministry. Launched in November 2017, IHCI has enrolled more than three lakh patients with high blood pressure in government health facilities in 25 selected districts in Punjab, Madhya Pradesh, Kerala, Telangana, and Maharashtra. "Now IHCI will expand to 100 districts across India covering all the states. The project will accelerate the implementation of quality hypertension treatment for over 15 crore people over the next four years and prevent deaths from heart attack, stroke and kidney failure," the official said. IHCI is a five-year initiative which aims to accelerate India's efforts to check non-communicable disease (NCD) target by strengthening hypertension management and control using evidence-based strategies.

ICMR expands hypertension initiative to 100 districts, 15 crore people

July 31, 2019/Medi-Bulletin

Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), in collaboration with World Health Organization and Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, today announced nationwide expansion of their program India Hypertension Control Initiative (IHCI). Launched in November 2017 IHCI has enrolled more than three lakh patients with high blood pressure in the government health facilities in 25 selected districts of the country in the states of Punjab, Madhya Pradesh, Kerala, Telangana, and Maharashtra. Now IHCI will expand to 100 districts across India covering all the states. The project will accelerate the implementation of quality hypertension treatment for over 15 crore population over the next four years and prevent deaths from heart attack, stroke and kidney failure. Heart attack and stroke are the leading cause of death globally, including India. Uncontrolled high blood pressure or hypertension is the most common reason for sudden heart attack or stroke. In India, one in four adults have high blood pressure. Among people with high blood pressure, only half have been diagnosed and only 1 in 10 have blood pressure under control. As a result, a large number of people develop heart attacks, strokes, and kidney failure while in the productive years of life. IHCI complements the National Programme for Prevention and Control of Diabetes, Cardiovascular Disease and Stroke (NPCDCS) of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India. IHCI will continue to accelerate the achievement of targets of Government of India by ensuring a continuum of care and give a boost to the ongoing "Ayushman Bharat" program.

1 in 4 adults suffering from hypertension in India; medical association to expand controlling initiative program

July 31, 2019/Devdiscourse

With one in four adults suffering from hypertension in India, the **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** will expand its program on IndiaHypertension Control Initiative (IHCI) to 100 districts across India covering all the states. This

was being done to strengthen the capacity of states to provide good and quality treatment to the people. The program will also include comprehensive training for healthcare workers (doctors, nurses, pharmacists, mid-level health care providers) on latest practices on hypertension. The IHCI, which was launched in November 2017, has now enrolled more than three lakh patients with high blood pressure in the government health facilities in 25 selected districts of Punjab, Madhya Pradesh, Kerala, Telangana and Maharashtra. According to data by the ICMR, hypertension has become a growing health issue in the country. There are an estimated 20 crore adults with hypertension of whom approximately only two crores have it under control. Speaking to ANI, Dr Prabhdeep Kaur, Scientist E and Head of Division of Non-Communicable Disease, ICMR said, "In India, one in every four adults are diagnosed with hypertension which total amounts to nearly 20 crore adults with high blood pressure in the county. Among people with high blood pressure, only half have been diagnosed and only one in 10 have blood pressure under control. As a result, a large number of people develop heart attacks, strokes, and kidney failure while in the productive years of life."



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July 31, 2019/Sify News

With one in four adults suffering from hypertension in India, the **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** will expand its program on India Hypertension Control Initiative (IHCI) to 100 districts across India covering all the states. This was being done to strengthen the capacity of states to provide good and quality treatment to the people. The program will also include comprehensive training for healthcare workers (doctors, nurses, pharmacists, mid-level health care providers) on latest practices on hypertension. The IHCI, which was launched in November 2017, has now enrolled more than three lakh patients with high blood pressure in the government health facilities in 25 selected districts of Punjab, Madhya Pradesh, Kerala, Telangana and Maharashtra. According to data by the ICMR, hypertension has become a growing health issue in the country. There are an estimated 20 crore adults with hypertension of whom approximately only two crores have it under control. Speaking to ANI, Dr Prabhdeep Kaur, Scientist E and Head of Division of Non-Communicable Disease, ICMR said, "In India, one in every four adults are diagnosed with hypertension which total amounts to nearly 20 crore adults with high blood pressure in the county. Among people with high blood pressure, only half have been diagnosed and only one in 10 have blood pressure under control. As a result, a large number of people develop heart attacks, strokes, and kidney failure while in the productive years of life."

Over 10 crore people sitting on minefield of high BP unawares

July 31, 2019/Medicare News

20 crore people in India are in vice like grip of high blood pressure. Half of them are not aware that they are sitting on the minefield of high blood pressure. There is no other disease which accounts for such vast population. Given the grim scenario, **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** has scaled up its India Hypertension Control Initiative (IHCI) to 100 districts encompassing every state. It was announced today (31 July, 2019) in ICMR. In a press briefing Dr Prabhdeep Kaur,

Deputy Director and Head of Division of NCD at ICMR-National Institute of Epidemiology, Chennai, said out of 20 crores, blood pressure of only 2 crore people are controlled. We have set a target of 25 % reduction in number till 2025. Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), in collaboration with World Health Organization and Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, today announced nationwide expansion of their program India Hypertension Control Initiative (IHCI). Launched in November 2017 IHCI has enrolled more than three lakh patients with high blood pressure in the government health facilities in 25 selected districts of the country in the states of Punjab, Madhya Pradesh, Kerala, Telangana, and Maharashtra. Now IHCI will expand to 100 districts across India covering all the states. The project will accelerate the implementation of quality hypertension treatment for over 15 crore population over the next four years and prevent deaths from heart attack, stroke and kidney failure. Heart attack and stroke are the leading cause of death globally, including India. Uncontrolled high blood pressure or hypertension is the most common reason for sudden heart attack or stroke. In India, one in four adults have high blood pressure. Among people with high blood pressure, only half have been diagnosed and only 1 in 10 have blood pressure under control. As a result, a large number of people develop heart attacks, strokes, and kidney failure while in the productive years of life.



ICMR's hypertension initiative to cover 100 districts in India

July 31, 2019/Drug Today Medical Times

The **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)**, in collaboration with World Health Organization and Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, has announced nationwide expansion of their program India Hypertension Control Initiative (IHCI). IHCI will expand to 100 districts from the earlier 25 districts across India covering all the states. The project will accelerate the implementation of quality hypertension treatment for over 15 crore population over the next four years and prevent deaths from heart attack, stroke and kidney failure. Dr Prabhdeep Kaur from ICMR-NIE told DTMT, “The Government of India has adopted a national action plan for the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases and has set a target for a 25% reduction in high blood pressure by 2025.” She stated, “With approximately 20 crore adult patients with hypertension in India, more support from all quarters will be needed to help the Government achieve this target.” Dr Kaur claimed, “Prevention and treatment of hypertension is far safer for patients than expensive interventions like bypass surgery and dialysis.” The IHCI aims to reduce disability and death related to cardiovascular disease, the leading cause of death in the country, by improving the control of high blood pressure, reducing salt consumption and eliminating artificial trans-fats, leading risk factors for heart disease. IHCI will continue to accelerate the achievement of targets of the Indian government by ensuring a continuum of care and give a boost to the ongoing “Ayushman Bharat” program.

1 in 4 adults suffering from hypertension in India; medical association to expand controlling initiative program

July 31, 2019/ANI news

With one in four adults suffering from hypertension in India, the **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** will expand its program on India Hypertension Control Initiative (IHCI) to 100 districts across India covering all the states. This

was being done to strengthen the capacity of states to provide good and quality treatment to the people. The program will also include comprehensive training for healthcare workers (doctors, nurses, pharmacists, mid-level health care providers) on latest practices on hypertension. The IHCI, which was launched in November 2017, has now enrolled more than three lakh patients with high blood pressure in the government health facilities in 25 selected districts of Punjab, Madhya Pradesh, Kerala, Telangana and Maharashtra. According to data by the ICMR, hypertension has become a growing health issue in the country. There are an estimated 20 crore adults with hypertension of whom approximately only two crores have it under control. Speaking to ANI, Dr Prabhdeep Kaur, Scientist E and Head of Division of Non-Communicable Disease, ICMR said, "In India, one in every four adults are diagnosed with hypertension which total amounts to nearly 20 crore adults with high blood pressure in the county. Among people with high blood pressure, only half have been diagnosed and only one in 10 have blood pressure under control. As a result, a large number of people develop heart attacks, strokes, and kidney failure while in the productive years of life."



Sri Balaji Vidyapeeth hosts health research convention

31 July 2019/The Hindu

Experts have advocated a research culture rooted in ethics across higher education institutions. Participating in the recent three-day International Health Research Convention (IHRC) hosted by Sri Balaji Vidyapeeth (SBV) at its main campus in the city and off-campus in Chennai, the experts who discussed various facets of scientific research said that while fostering scientific research in higher education was important, it was equally essential to promote ethical values in such endeavours to ensure global validation and relevance for humanity as a whole. The convention sessions spanned academics, research, patient care and entrepreneurial skills in health science disciplines. The event, which hosted 15 workshops, 12 conferences, two stakeholders meetings and three startups, was supported by a host of organisations including the World Health Organization, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India, Medical Council of India (MCI), Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), Department of Biotechnology, Government of India, **Indian Council for Medical Research (ICMR)**, Madras Medical Mission besides two overseas universities — the IMC University of Applied Sciences, KREMS, Austria and Angila Ruskin University, Cambridge, United Kingdom.

Locked in litigation on e-cigarettes, vapes ban, Health Ministry seeks opinion of Law Ministry

31 July 2019/The Indian Express

A month after India's top drug advisory body recommended moves to help the government ban products like e-cigarettes and vapes, the Health Ministry has sought the Law Ministry's opinion on whether it can go ahead with them, The Indian Express has learnt. This is because the Health Ministry is locked in litigation opposing the ban, according to senior officials aware of the development. In June, the Drugs Technical Advisory Board (DTAB) approved a proposal to regulate Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems (ENDS) as 'drugs' and prohibit their sale in the country — a move that may hit India's nascent vapour products market,

reportedly expected to grow nearly 60 per cent annually up to 2022. This includes products like e-cigarettes, vapes, e-sheeshas, e-nicotine flavoured hookas and heat-not burn devices, all not approved under India's drug regulations. Another senior official had earlier said that the government would act on recommendations and evidence produced by its own research bodies, including the **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)**.



[Odisha Government bans E-cigarettes and hookahs](#)

31 July 2019/The New Indian Express

BHUBANESWAR: The State Government has banned Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems (ENDS) including e-cigarettes with immediate effect in public interest. As per an advisory issued by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, ENDS like alternative smoking devices, e-cigarettes, Vape, e-sheesa, heat-not-burn devices, e-nicotine and flavoured hookah have been categorised as drugs under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940. Though e-cigarettes do not fall within the scope of existing national legislation on tobacco production, distribution and use, doctors claim that these pose significant health risks to users that are frighteningly similar to those of conventional cigarettes. As any item intended to be used as an aid to help quit smoking is covered under the definition of drugs under the Act, manufacture, sale and distribution of ENDS are prohibited under Section 26A of the Act. Stating that use of these devices can lead to nicotine addiction among non-smokers too, the **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** had earlier recommended a complete ban on ENDS.

[Centre's hypertension control initiative prog expanded to 100 districts](#)

August 1, 2019/ET Healthworld

To accelerate implementation of quality treatment for hypertension among Indians and prevent deaths from heart attack, stroke and kidney failure, the government announced on Wednesday the expansion of its India Hypertension Control Initiative (IHCI) to 100 districts covering all the states. According to government data, uncontrolled high blood pressure or hypertension is the most common reason for sudden heart attack and is a leading cause of death in the country. One in four adults have high blood pressure in India. Among people with high blood pressure, only half have been diagnosed and only 1 in 10 have blood pressure under control. As a result, a large number of people suffer heart attacks, strokes, and kidney failure while in the productive years of life, a health ministry official said. IHCI's expansion is being done by the **Indian Council of Medical Research** in collaboration with the World Health Organisation and the Health Ministry. Launched in November 2017, IHCI has enrolled more than three lakh patients with high blood pressure in government health facilities in 25 selected districts in Punjab, Madhya Pradesh, Kerala, Telangana, and Maharashtra. "Now IHCI will expand to 100 districts across India covering all the states. The project will accelerate the implementation of quality hypertension treatment for over 15 crore people over the next four years and prevent deaths from heart attack, stroke and kidney failure," the official said. IHCI is a five-year initiative which aims to accelerate India's efforts to check non-communicable disease (NCD) target by strengthening hypertension management and control using evidence-based strategies

Govt's BP control initiative to be expanded to 100 districts

August 1, 2019/Elets



With an aim to control diabetes and other related diseases taking toll on the health of masses, the Government on Wednesday announced expansion of its India Hypertension Control Initiative (IHCI) across country. A plan is afoot to expand IHIC initiative to 100 districts covering all the states so that a large population could avail quality treatment for hypertension, a disease which makes people vulnerable to heart attack, stroke and kidney failure. As per the official data, uncontrolled high blood pressure or hypertension, which leads to a sudden heart attack at times, is among leading causes for death in the country. The data says that one in four adults have high blood pressure in India. Among people with high blood pressure, only half have been diagnosed and only 1 in 10 have blood pressure under control. As a result, a large number of people suffer heart attacks, strokes, and kidney failure while in the productive years of life, a health ministry official said. IHCI's expansion is being done by the **Indian Council of Medical Research** in collaboration with the World Health Organisation and the Health Ministry. Launched in November 2017, IHCI has enrolled more than three lakh patients with high blood pressure in government health facilities in 25 selected districts in Punjab, Madhya Pradesh, Kerala, Telangana, and Maharashtra. "Now IHCI will expand to 100 districts across India covering all the states. The project will accelerate the implementation of quality hypertension treatment for over 15 crore people over the next four years and prevent deaths from heart attack, stroke and kidney failure," the official said.

Can National Essential Diagnostics List alone fight India's healthcare battles?

1 August 2019/Financial Express

Protection of patients, stronger regulations and right to healthcare were among the focus areas of general elections. With the new government in power, we are yet to see how many of those will see the light of day. In a country spending only 1.15% of GDP on its people's health, the appetite for better healthcare initiatives is voracious. In what could be a step in this direction, the **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** collaborated with the ministry of health and family welfare and some experts to release the final draft of the National Essential Diagnostics List (NEDL), in the coming months (according to sources). As the government plans to launch pathology labs at more than 500 Jan Aushadhi outlets, it appears we are inching closer to finalising NEDL. What does it mean to the people? If all goes as planned, the government will make a set of quality diagnostic tests available at every healthcare centre, and the move could make more than 100 diagnostic tests accessible to people. While the move is laudable, India has healthcare battles to win on many fronts, failing which NEDL could fall flat. We need a more structured approach to address the growing challenges of the healthcare industry.

Explained: What's at stake in India's biggest ever trial of tuberculosis vaccines

1 August 2019/The Indian Express

The **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** launched India's first large-scale trial for two new tuberculosis (TB) vaccines. As per the 2018 annual report of the Central TB division of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, the incidence of TB was nearly 2.8 million annually, and the incidence of multidrug-resistant TB was

1,47,000 per year. The total number of deaths because of TB (excluding HIV) was 4,23,000, and the incidence of HIV-TB was 87,000 per year. India contributes to 27 per cent of the global TB burden; the highest share globally. That is why, in 2017, the central government had committed itself to eliminating TB by 2025. The new vaccines that are being put through the trials offer a chance to contain the accelerating spread of multi-drug resistant TB. Treating TB requires a multi-drug course of treatment lasting six months; longer still for treating drug-resistant TB. Treatment failure and recurrence can have devastating consequences.

ICMR launches India Hypertension Control Initiative

1 August 2019/The Hindu BusinessLine

In India, one in four adults has high blood pressure. Among them, only half have been diagnosed and only ten percent have their blood pressure under control. As a result, a large number of people develop heart attacks, strokes, and kidney failure while in their productive years of life. To deal with the problem, **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)**, in collaboration with World Health Organization and Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, has decided to expand its India Hypertension Control Initiative (IHCI) across the country. Launched in November 2017, the initiative has enrolled more than three lakh patients with high blood pressure in government health facilities in 25 selected districts in Punjab, Madhya Pradesh, Kerala, Telangana, and Maharashtra. It will now be expanded to cover 100 districts across all states. The expansion is expected to accelerate the implementation of quality hypertension treatment for over 15 crore population over the next four years.

ICMR, WHO and MoH&FW to expand hypertension initiative

1 August 2019/Express Healthcare

Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), in collaboration with World Health Organization and Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, announced nationwide expansion of India Hypertension Control Initiative (IHCI) programme. Launched in November 2017, IHCI has enrolled more than three lakh patients with high blood pressure in the government health facilities in 25 selected districts of the country in the states of Punjab, Madhya Pradesh, Kerala, Telangana, and Maharashtra. Now IHCI will expand to 100 districts across India covering all the states. The project will accelerate the implementation of quality hypertension treatment for over 15 crore population over the next four years and prevent deaths from heart attack, stroke and kidney failure. IHCI complements the National Programme for Prevention and Control of Diabetes, Cardiovascular Disease and Stroke (NPCDCS) of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India. IHCI will continue to accelerate the achievement of targets of Government of India by ensuring a continuum of care and give a boost to the ongoing 'Ayushman Bharat' programme.

First time ever! India to conduct its biggest tuberculosis preventive trial with two new vaccines

1 August 2019/Financial Express

The **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** has launched India's first large-scale trial for two new TB vaccines, a report in the IE has indicated. This is the first

time a large preventive TB vaccine trial involving more than 12,000 healthy household contacts of newly diagnosed TB patients from across six states of India are set to be enrolled. For these trials, the six states including Delhi, Maharashtra, Odisha, Telangana and Karnataka, with two thousand participants from each state are to be enrolled over the next seven to eight months. Further, seven main centres will have six sub-sites, where these trials will be conducted. In this first of its kind roll out, the report in IE adds that candidates in this trial will be at high risk of contracting the disease. Therefore, they will be vaccinated with either of the two new vaccines, and compared with placebo to assess its efficacy. Many questions related to tuberculosis vaccine history may already be racing through your mind. For instance, is TB vaccine necessary when BCG vaccine is already known to be effective? Can you get TB after BCG vaccine is administered? Let's understand more about TB vaccines in India and why new vaccines are the need of the hour.



[What is National Medical Commission Bill and why doctors are against it](#)

1 August 2019/ThePrint

New Delhi: The National Medical Commission (NMC) Bill, 2019 was passed by the Lok Sabha Monday and introduced in the Rajya Sabha Thursday. The Bill aims to repeal the existing Indian Medical Council Act, 1956, and replace the Medical Council of India (MCI) with a new body — National Medical Commission. The medical fraternity has, however, raised objections to the Bill, and doctors across the country went on a strike Wednesday, with more hospitals joining Thursday. The strike was called by the Indian Medical Association. ThePrint explains the provisions of the Bill, the reasons behind the doctors opposing it, and its pros and cons. The Bill aims to set up a National Medical Commission with 25 members. These members will be appointed by the central government on the recommendation of a committee. The members will include a chairperson, who must be a senior medical practitioner and academic with at least 20 years of experience, 10 ex officio members and 14 part-time members. The ex officio members will include the presidents of the undergraduate and postgraduate medical education boards, the director general of **Indian Council of Medical Research**, and a director of one of the AIIMS, among others.

[Telmisartan Market Business Overview, Challenges, Opportunities, Trends by 2018-2026](#)

1 August 2019/Business Intelligence

Prevalence of high blood pressures, is increasing globally attributed to rising geriatric population, chronic disorders such as diabetes, and changing lifestyles which in turn is expected to increase the demand for telmisartan in global market. According to Blood Pressure UK, 2017 update, high blood pressure is the leading cause of heart disease and stroke, killing around 7.5 million people worldwide every year. In 1975, 594 million people were suffering from high blood pressure which increased to 1.1 billion in 2015 and is thought to be due to population growth and an aging population. Key players are focused on development and launch of new generic product to maximize access to end users for their product in less cost, in turn gaining market share in telmisartan market. For instance, in June 2017, Solco Healthcare, announced its FDA approval for Telmisartan tablets, 20mg, 40mg, and 80mg, which are AB-rated equivalents to Micardis by Boehringer Ingelheim. Solco Healthcare will market Telmisartan tablets in 30 count bottles for

all three strengths. Moreover, increasing government initiatives for hypertension management is expected to drive growth of the global Telmisartan market. For instance, in December 2017, the Secretary, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MOHFW) and Secretary, Department of Health Research (DHR) and Director General, **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** launched.



[Need for evidence-informed funding for Leptospirosis Research in India](#)

1 August 2019/BSI bureau

The George Institute for Global Health India has released an evidence gap map (EGM) that analyzed 557 research studies conducted on leptospirosis in India. The analysis highlighted gaps in research for basic biomedical research, epidemiology (disease distribution and risk factors), diagnostic tests and prevention, management, and control efforts to address the problem of Leptospirosis. The development of the evidence gap map was supported by the **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** and is expected to inform future strategic decisions in the area of research. Leptospirosis is an infectious disease which peaks seasonally, often in the form of outbreaks. The Kerala Floods last saw Leptospirosis outbreaks and the Maharashtra government this year is taking pre-emptive steps to prevent outbreaks. In the recent past, there has been a surge in incidence and outbreaks of leptospirosis with cases reported from several states in India. The National Centre for Disease Control identifies Andaman & Nicobar, Gujarat (4 districts), Kerala (14 districts affected), Maharashtra (4 districts and Mumbai), Karnataka (9 districts) and Tamil Nadu (2 districts and Chennai) as areas of high burden. A National Program for Control and Prevention of leptospirosis in endemic states was started by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in 2015. The Indian Council of Medical Research, (ICMR) Expert Committee on Leptospirosis identified the need to inform future strategic decisions for research through systematic appraisal of available research in the country. ICMR entrusted The George Institute with developing an evidence-gap map for Leptospirosis research in India.

[Spotlight on malaria research again as new case surfaces](#)

2 August 2019/Times of India

Bareilly: With a native of Bareilly suspected to have been diagnosed with 'monkey malaria' in Almora district hospital, the spotlight has again shifted to research on the deadly disease which could not be completed in a year. The patient is suspected to have contracted the infection from a rare malaria parasite — Plasmodium knowlesi — which is usually found in monkeys. The slide report of the Bareilly native has been sent to **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** for final confirmation. After the outbreak of malaria last year, experts had decided to conduct a research to rule out the presence of Plasmodium knowlesi, which is a parasite in monkeys. Based on the request of additional director (health), the principal chief conservator of forests (wildlife) had given permission to take blood samples from simians in Aonla sub-division, where malaria had spread the most. Even the scientists at Indian Veterinary Research Institute (IVRI) had said that they would conduct a research on it if they are provided blood samples. However, as the health department delayed the process of appointing a monkey catcher, the time period given by the PCCF (wildlife) to take blood samples expired earlier this year.

[Will surrogacy law be really effective in India ?](#)

2 August 2019/E-Pao.net



Now the Surrogacy (Regulation) Bill, 2019, which seeks to ban hiring of womb by infertile couples, has been introduced in the Lok Sabha once again and will go through usual rigmarole by the time it is converted into the act. The government had prohibited surrogacy for international citizens in 2015. Then the Surrogacy (Regulation) Bill 2016 was introduced in Lok Sabha on 21 November 2016. It was referred to Parliamentary standing committee on 12 January 2017 and the committee submitted its report on 10 August 2017. But the bill could not get the nod. In fact the **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** had issued guidelines to regulate surrogacy arrangements in 2005. The guidelines specified that the surrogate mother cannot donate her own egg for the surrogacy and that she must relinquish all parental rights related to the surrogate child. Subsequently the ICMR had prepared a draft Assisted Reproductive Technology (Regulation) Bill in 2008. However it did not see the light of day in Parliament. In the intervening period several Bollywood personalities went ahead and had children through in-vitro fertilisation (IVF) and surrogacy. However most of the cases relate to the period before the Surrogacy (Regulation) Bill, 2018, was passed. The list of Indian celebrity couples include: Aamir Khan and Kiran Rao (December 2011), Shah Rukh Khan and Gauri Khan (May 2013), Farah Khan and Shirish Kunder (On February 11, 2008) and Sohail and Seema Khan (June 2011) who took the route of surrogacy. A miscarriage and uterine complications were some of the reasons advanced. In the recent past, Sunny Leone and Daniel Weber gave birth to twins through surrogacy and named them Asher Singh Weber and Noah Singh.

[ICMR expands India Hypertension Control Initiative](#)

2 August 2019/BSI bureau

Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), in collaboration with World Health Organization and Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, has announced nationwide expansion of their program India Hypertension Control Initiative (IHCI). Launched in November 2017 IHCI has enrolled more than three lakh patients with high blood pressure in the government health facilities in 25 selected districts of the country in the states of Punjab, Madhya Pradesh, Kerala, Telangana, and Maharashtra. Now IHCI will expand to 100 districts across India covering all the states. The project will accelerate the implementation of quality hypertension treatment for over 15 crore population over the next four years and prevent deaths from heart attack, stroke and kidney failure. IHCI complements the National Programme for Prevention and Control of Diabetes, Cardiovascular Disease and Stroke (NPCDCS) of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India. IHCI will continue to accelerate the achievement of targets of Government of India by ensuring a continuum of care and give a boost to the ongoing “Ayushman Bharat” program. Launching the expansion of IHCI, Dr. Balram Bhargava, Secretary, Department of Health Research and Director General ICMR said, “The Government of India has adopted a national action plan for the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases and has set a target for a 25% reduction in high blood pressure by 2025. With approximately 20 crore adult patients with hypertension in India, more support from all quarters will be needed to help the Government achieve this target. IHCI is a model initiative towards that. Prevention and treatment of hypertension is far safer for patients than expensive interventions like bypass surgery and dialysis.”

With regards,



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