

Department of Health Research (DHR)

The Department of Health Research was established in the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare on 18th September 2007. The broad objectives/goals of the Department are as follows:

- Promotion and co-ordination of basic, applied and clinical research including clinical trials and operational research in areas related to medical, health, biomedical and medical profession and education through development of infrastructure, manpower and skills in cutting edge areas and management of related information thereto.
- Promote and provide guidance on research governance issues, including ethical issues in medical and health research.
- Inter-sectoral coordination and promotion of public-private partnership in medical, bio-medical and health research related areas.
- Advanced training in research areas concerning medicine and health including grant of fellowships for such training in India and abroad.
- International cooperation in medical and health research including work related to international conferences in related areas in India and abroad.
- Technical support for dealing with epidemics and natural calamities.
- Investigation of outbreaks due to new and exotic agents and development of tools for prevention.
- Matters relating to scientific societies and associations, charitable and religious endowments in medicine and health research areas.
- Coordination between organisations and institutes under the Central and State Governments in areas related to the subjects entrusted to the Department and for the promotion of special studies in medicine and health.
- Administering and monitoring of Indian Council of Medical Research.

DHR is headed by a Secretary to the Govt. of India, who assumed charge in November 2008. The Secretary DHR is also the Director General ICMR. The Secretary is assisted by two Joint Secretaries and one Deputy Secretary/ Director and two Under Secretaries. Apart from looking after the work of Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), the Department has formulated following major Central Sector Schemes to fulfil its mandate under the Allocation of Business Rules:

- (1) Human Resource Development for Health Research
- (2) Grants in Aid scheme for inter-sectoral convergence & promotion and guidance on research governance issues
- (3) Infrastructure Development for Health Research (Establishment of Multi-Disciplinary Research Units in Government Medical Colleges).
- (4) Establishment of Model Rural Health Research Units in States
- (5) Establishment of a network of Laboratories for Managing Epidemics and Natural Calamities

HPC was informed that first two schemes were initiated in 2011-12 for the last year of the XI Plan only. Thus ongoing programme of ICMR are the only activities which have been proposed to be carried over to XII Plan.