



June, 2022

e-Samvaad

HEALTH LITERACY CRUCIAL DURING PANDEMIC SITUATION

Number of people seeking information about COVID-19 and immunity on social media has increased dramatically in India. According to scientists that analyse food search trends, there is a surge in interest in Ayurvedic Kadha (a decoction of spices and herbs) was found to be extremely high, while utilization was noticeably low. The study titled "Impact of 'infodemic in pandemic' on food and nutrition related perceptions and practices of Indian Internet users" has brought to forth very important notions.

The study was published in a peer-reviewed scientific journal: PLoS One, explained that the uncontrolled dissemination of (mis) information, news, and propaganda regarding COVID-19 created an 'infodemic' causing widespread panic and unscientific practices.

The research revealed that while most people admitted to rely on social media for COVID-19 related tips for boosting immunity, those with a history of COVID-19 infection reported relying more on doctors and health professionals for information. Interestingly, despite the hype, fewer people consumed kadha/kashayam a medicinal herb decoction (28.8%) and chawanprash - an Ayurvedic health mixture made of various herbs and spices (57.5%) respectively. The least dependence on homoeopathy medicines for boosting immunity against COVID-19 was found (28.1%).

This study emphasises the importance of media and health literacy in promoting the proper use of health information. The concept of "immunity boosting foods" as a preventive method to combat COVID-19 infection acquired a lot of popularity during the pandemic. The purpose of this study was to assess the trend of COVID-19-related food and nutrition news searches by Indian Internet users between the 27th January 2020 and the 30th June 2021 and its impact on their perceptions and practices.

WHAT'S INSIDE

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Achievement

New guidelines for the treatment of Kala-Azar - HIV patients based on the study conducted at ICMR-RMRIMS, Patna

- WHO issues new guidelines for kala-azar HIV patients treatment
- Treatment time reduced from 38 days to only 14 days for kala-azar-HIV patients
- Bihar and Jharkhand, the two most kala-azar endemic states in India will benefit

World Health Organisation (WHO) has released revised guidelines for the management of visceral leishmaniasis (Kala-azar) - HIV patients. According to new guidelines the treatment duration have been reduced from 38 days to only 14 days. These changes in treatment duration are based on outcome of research study partnered by ICMR - Rajendra Memorial Research Institute of Medical Sciences (ICMR-RMRIMS), Patna.

Compared to the old treatment, which had an efficacy rate of 88.6%, the new suggested treatment regimen had a 96.0% efficacy at six months. The previous recommended treatment for HIV-VL co-infection was 38 days of intermittent injections of liposomal amphotericin B (AmBisome). The new treatment, which consists of a 14-day course of AmBisome and oral miltefosine, has significantly higher efficacy rates.

The study was conducted on 150 patients between 2017 and 2020 at ICMR-RMRIMS, which is a centre for clinical trials of the Indian Council of



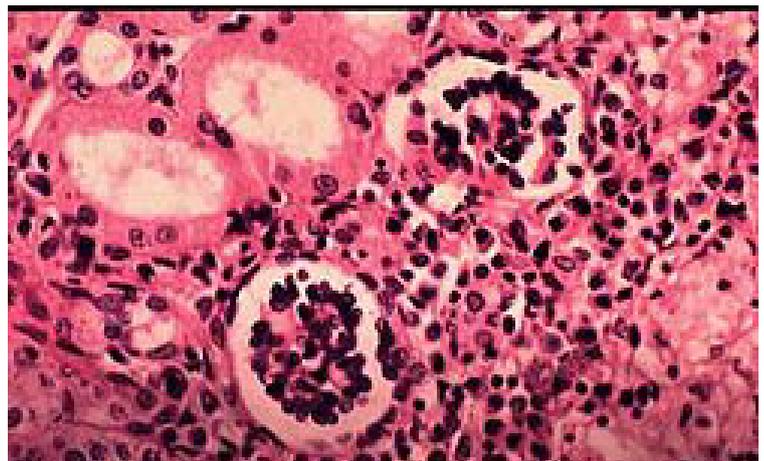
Phase II Trail of revolutionary tablet for kala-azar set to begin at ICMR-RMRIMS, Patna

Phase II clinical trial on a new kala-azar (KA) drug, LXE 408 (code named), a simple tablet is scheduled to begin in July 2022 at the ICMR - Rajendra Memorial Research Institute of Medical Sciences in Patna and the Kala-azar Medical and Research Centre in Muzaffarpur. The study would last for about 18 months and would focus on the duration of treatment, a patient's tolerance to the medication, the maximised dose required to kill the leishmaniasis parasite and the drug's safety.

"The LXE 408 pill is seen as a milestone and a potential future drug for the treatment of kala-azar, since many

Indians have also developed resistance to the first known anti-kala-azar drug," said Dr Krishna Pandey, Director, ICMR - Rajendra Memorial Research Institute.

The LXE 408 will be a more user-friendly drug as it is an oral medication and can be kept closer to the community, especially in rural areas, where people have poor access to healthcare in comparison to the more commonly used kala-azar drug today. The phase I trial on healthy people was conducted in the United States, which began in 2018-19 and had enrolled 88 healthy volunteers. In phase II around 100 kala-azar patients will be enrolled.



Medical Research. On February 11, 2022, its results and findings were published in the scientific journal 'Clinical Infectious Diseases' and soon after the research partners sought approval from the WHO.

Dr Krishna Pandey, Director, ICMR - Rajendra Memorial Research Institute and principal investigator in the study said, "The new treatment regimen is good, as it reduces the use of injectable drugs and significantly increases the chances for patients to be cured. We are proud of this achievement,"

The revised WHO guidelines will drastically enhance the lives of patients suffering from both diseases who faced stigma, social exclusion, loss of income, and relapses. Now patients with Kala-azar-HIV co-infection will be treated with an evidence-based treatment for the first time in India. This development is a boon for such patients, particularly in Bihar and Jharkhand, the two most kala-azar endemic states in India. Bihar's Siwan district and Jharkhand's Pakur district and Dumka district have kala-Azar endemicity of over 1 per 10,000 populations.

Achievement

ICMR-NIRT released Indian catalogue of Mycobacterium TB mutation and their association with drug resistance report

- Dr.Mansukh Mandaviya, Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare released the interim report.
- ICMR-NIRT has been strengthening the fight against TB with its research & development of new tools & methods - Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya
- A booklet in Tamil language on nutritional support to TB patients was also released



An interim report on Indian catalogue of Mycobacterium TB mutation & their association with drug resistance prepared by ICMR-National Institute for Research in Tuberculosis, Chennai (ICMR-NIRT) was released by Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya, Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare. The catalogue provides a reference standard for the interpretation of mutations conferring resistance to all first-line and a variety of second-line drugs. Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya also released a booklet on nutritional support in local language that may be provided to TB patients for comprehensive recovery.

Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya also interacted with the scientists & faculty members of ICMR-National Institute for Research in Tuberculosis & was briefed on various activities of the Institute. He also visited the BSL-3 Lab at the institute.

On this occasion, Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare, Dr Mansukh Mandaviya said that, "ICMR-NIRT has been strengthening the fight against TB with its research & development of new tools & methods. The Institute is making significant contributions to achieving Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi goal of making India TB-free by 2025".

Indian Council of Medical Research and its associated Institutes are working tirelessly to strengthen testing, reporting and treatment & generate evidence to achieve the target of eliminating Tuberculosis (TB) by the year 2025. Government of India is also determined and committed to achieve Prime Minister's vision of eliminating TB by 2025, five years ahead of the target for TB set by sustainable development goals (SDG)



2030.

According to WHO reports, every day, over 4100 people die from TB and nearly 30,000 people fall ill with TB disease – despite it being preventable and treatable. It is one of the world's deadliest infectious diseases and has devastating health, social and economic impact on people around the world.

ICMR-NIRT, a permanent Institute under the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), is an internationally recognized Institution for Tuberculosis (TB) research. It is a Supranational Reference Laboratory and a WHO Collaborating Centre for TB Research and Training. Recently, an International Centre for Excellence in Research (ICER) in collaboration with NIH was established at the Centre.



Achievement

Foundation stone laid for the establishment of the International Center of Excellence for training in Medical Entomology (ICETIME) at ICMR - VCRC

Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya, Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare along with Dr. Tamilisai Soundararajan Lt. Governor of Puducherry laid the foundation stone for the International Centre of Excellence for Training in Medical Entomology at the ICMR- Vector Control Research Centre in Puducherry. Prof (Dr.) Balram Bhargav, Director General, Indian Council of Medical Research and Dr. Ashwani Kumar, Director, ICMR-VCRC were also present on this occasion.

On this occasion Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya said that any country that wishes to progress should prioritise research and development. The Minister praised and thanked the scientists who developed the vaccine during the COVID-19 pandemic by stating that no other country could claim to have administered nearly two billion doses of vaccine. Common people's lives are being saved by the powerful public health infrastructures thanks to the efforts of the Central Government, which is led by Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji.

The centre will fulfill growing demand for trained manpower in the field of public health entomology at the regional, national and global levels. It will create a state-of-the-art facility for teaching and training in public health entomology



to students and in service staff members in states and Union territories. The centre will offer masters degrees, diplomas, certificate courses and informal training in public health entomology. The facility would be open to Southeast Asian and African countries to strengthen vector control arms of the national programmes in their respective countries.

Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya visited Mosquito Museum

Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya, Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare visited the Mosquito Museum in ICMR-Vector Control Research Centre, Puducherry. Mosquito museum was established in ICMR-VCRC in 2000 with the aim to collect mosquito species prevalent in India and serve as reference material for taxonomic studies and training in mosquito identification. At present there are about 43,388 adult specimens, of which 36,816 are individually mounted on minuten pins, while rests are held in stock vials. Representative specimens collected from 20 states and 3 union territories are available for ready reference. It is a vital source of information for government planners and a goldmine for researchers.



Achievement

ICMR Releases Guidelines for Management of Type-1 Diabetes

- India has the highest incident and prevalence rates of Type-1 diabetes in the entire world - International Diabetes Federation
- These guidelines are the nation's first-ever guide on fundamental dos and don'ts for keeping Type-1 patients safe while traveling
- Type 1 diabetes is a chronic condition characterized by the pancreas creating little or no insulin at all

Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has released a guideline for the management of type 1 diabetes mellitus (T1DM). This initiative is influenced by the constant rising cases of type 1 diabetes amongst the younger population. This guideline can be accessed through this link - https://main.icmr.nic.in/sites/default/files/upload_documents/ICMR_Guidelines_for_Management_of_Type_1_Diabetes.pdf

According to guideline statement, people with Type-1 diabetes require support in order to live, use insulin and other medications, and do so without stigma, limitations, or crippling effects as a result of their illness. These guidelines are the nation's first-ever guide on fundamental dos and don'ts for keeping Type-1 patients safe.

The conceptualisation of the entire guideline was spearheaded by team consisting of Dr. V Mohan, Director, MDRF, Chennai, Dr. Nikhil Tandon, Head, Department of Endocrinology and Metabolism, AIIMS, New Delhi, Dr. R S Dhaliwal, Head, Division of Non Communicable Diseases, ICMR and Dr. Tanvir Kaur, Scientist 'G', Division of Non Communicable Diseases, ICMR. According to recent data from the International Diabetes Federation, India has the highest incident and prevalence rates of Type-1 diabetes in the entire world.

According to the document, Type 1 diabetes is a chronic condition characterized by the pancreas creating little or no insulin at all. The major symptoms include, 'thirst, frequent urination, hunger, fatigue and blurred vision. The incidence of T1DM in India is 4.9 cases in one lakh population per year. The



risk of T1DM is 3 percent, 5 percent, and 8 percent, respectively, when mother, father, and sibling have T1DM.

It also highlights that Continuous Glucose Monitoring (CGM) has changed the way type 1 diabetes is monitored and controlled globally, however financial issues are still a problem in India and might remain so for a while. Diabetes management depends on a 24-hour medication schedule, and medication adjustments are needed only when the patient is traveling east or west, not north or south. Traveling east results in a short day, and requires a potential reduction in insulin. Traveling west increases the day length, possibly requiring an increase in insulin dose. The insulin adjustments are usually required if crossing more than five time zones and staying for more than three days abroad. The ICMR document recommends maintaining ideal blood pressure, weight, and cholesterol levels in addition to keeping the glycemia in the normal to near-normal range with little to no hypoglycemia.

Event

Release of “My World of Preventive Medicine” by DG ICMR

Indian Council of Medical Research fondly remembered Dr. Chintaman Govind Pandit, a renowned Indian virologist, the Founder Director of Indian Council of Medical Research (1948-1964) for his contribution and efforts that encouraged medical research in the country. ICMR released the reprint of his book “My World of Preventive Medicine”, which is a befitting homage to Dr. C.G. Pandit, for being an inspiration to everyone and for his work in establishing the future of health service in India.

Dr. Chintaman Govind Pandit's life is an incredible journey that established the importance of medical and public health problems in the country and believed that nothing great in life can be accomplished alone. It is his firm fundamentals that the organization is able to develop its present prestige.

His landmark accomplishment includes his huge task to embark

in reducing the burden of Malaria and control the spread of Small Pox, Filariasis and Cholera like epidemics. He created curiosity among the Indian Scientists in regard to Leprosy problem prevailed in the country that time. Dr. Pandit had set high standards of integrity and economy and was conscientious in all his activities. He ensured ethical conduct in all activities of the council.

He secured his doctoral degree from the University of London, 1922. He had been awarded the renowned Order of the British Empire (OBE, 1943), Padma Shri (1956), and Padma Bhushan (1964). He was an elected fellow of the Indian National Science Academy (1939) and the founder fellow of the National Academy of Medical Sciences (India). After his demise, ICMR instituted a distinguished scientist chair, Dr. C. G. Pandit National Chair, in his honor.



Event

ICMR-RMRC, Gorakhpur Field Station Keylong held its Stakeholder's Meeting

- Meeting discussed ongoing and proposed research studies at Field Station Keylong
- Explored how delivery of medical supplies can be done in remote areas by using drones
- Research on NCDs – Diabetes and hypertension to start with and include COPD and cancer in the long run.

ICMR Field Station at Keylong, Himachal Pradesh, which works under ICMR-RMRC Gorakhpur, held its stakeholder's meeting on 14th June 2022. The participants talked about ongoing and proposed research studies, health issues and needs of Lahaul & Spiti, delivery of medical supplies in remote areas using drones, expectations and future projection of research.

The meeting was held under the chairmanship of Dr. V. M. Katoch, former Secretary of DHR and DG of ICMR and in the presence of Prof (Dr.) Balam Bhargava, Secretary DHR & DG ICMR, Dr. Rajni Kant, Director of the ICMR-RMRC Gorakhpur, Dr. P. C. Negi, Professor and Head, Department of Cardiology, IGMC Shimla, Dr. Tanuja Mishra, Project Scientist-B, Field Station Keylong, Dr. Sunil Raina, Professor and Head, Community medicine, RPGMC Tanda, Dr. Sanjay Vikrant, Dean Academics, AIIMS Bilaspur and others.

Dr. Rajni Kant, Director of the ICMR-RMRC Gorakhpur briefly described the beginnings and establishment of the ICMR's sole centre at an elevation >10,100 feet above sea level. He shared his vision of building and strengthening relationships in order to achieve TB-free Lahaul and Spiti, as well as health issues related to high altitude, health education and awareness, health seeking behaviour, and the role of traditional practitioners. He also suggested need for suggested for a BSL-2+ laboratory for the field station.

Dr. V. M. Katoch, former Secretary of DHR and DG of ICMR, emphasised the importance of capacity building and well-trained human resources in the area, and stated that, taking cues from AIIMS Bilaspur, the IMCR Field Station can organise frequent stakeholder meetings and collaborate with state and district health authorities.

Prof (Dr.) Balam Bhargava, Secretary DHR & DG ICMR,





emphasised that Field Station should work in collaboration with state health department. The focused should be on (TB, anemia and hepatitis) and help the state health department in their mitigation.

Dr. Tanuja Mishra, Project Scientist-B, Field Station Keylong, highlighted the importance of future research projects such as acute mountain sickness (AMS) and ethnographic exploration of Sowa-Rigpa among traditional health practitioners.

Dr. Madan Lal Bandhu, Chief Medical Officer of Lahaul and Spiti, mentioned about the shortage of paramedical staff at the regional hospital which can be solved with the support of ICMR and other collaborators. Dr. Sumit Aggarwal, Scientist-D, ECD, ICMR, New Delhi, proposed conducting a feasibility study on the use of drone. Shri R. Ramakrishnan, Sr. DDG, ICMR New Delhi, pointed out that it is difficult to receive

medical supplies during winter therefore, drone deliver should be attempted along with state health department.

Dr. P. C. Negi, Professor and Head, Department of Cardiology, IGMC Shimla, recommended that the state health department must engage with the hospitality sector to educate travellers about acute mountain sickness. Professor and Director of Community Medicine at RPGMCTanda, Dr. Sunil Raina, placed a strong emphasis on researching socioeconomic issues in order to comprehend the causes of anaemia.

After all the deliberations and discussions Dr. Mahendra M, Nodal officer, Keylong FS briefly highlighted the important recommendations and way forward for the Keylong FS. The field station was established in June 2015 with a mandate to assess the burden of disease and identify the leading cause of disease morbidity, mortality and for planning and implementing district health services including medical care.

MoU signed between ICMR-RMRC, Gorakhpur Field Station, Keylong and AIIMS, Bilaspur

A memorandum of understanding (MOU) was signed between Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) Regional Medical Research Centre (RMRC) Gorakhpur Field Station Keylong and All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) Bilaspur with the objective of promoting joint research, capacity building and health care policy formulation in the



remote and inaccessible tribal district of Lauhal and Spiti.

The MoU was signed by Dr. Rajni Kant, Director ICMR-RMRC Gorakhpur and Dr. Sanjay Vikrant, Dean Academics, AIIMS Bilaspur. Dr. V M Katoch, former secretary, Health Research & DG ICMR and Dr. Vir Singh Negi Executive Director, AIIMS Bilaspur joined the ceremony virtually.

On this occasion, Dr. Sanjay Vikrant congratulated ICMR Field Station Keylong for signing an MoU with AIIMS Bilaspur. He elaborated about the research strategy used by the AIIMS Bilaspur such as identifying focused research areas such as NCDs and high-altitude medicine. Dr. Vikrant Kanwar, Assistant Professor AIIMS Bilaspur, added that need of the hour is to for integration of technology in healthcare system to strengthen it according to the requirement of modern times. He also informed about the integration of Telemedicine and Drone technology under National Digital Health Program.

Event

ICMR organised Media Training and Crisis Communication Workshop at Keylong field station

A workshop on Media Training and Crisis communication workshop was organized in Keylong, Lahaul & Spiti, Himachal Pradesh on June 15-16 2022 by ICMR. The two day workshop focused on crisis management and social media strategy. Participants were given insights on institutional protocols & policies for communications, developing social media campaigns around key health days, understanding crisis management and case study on crisis management during COVID-19: Case Study from ICMR-National Institute of Virology was also discussed.

Dr. Rajni Kant, Director, Regional Medical Research Centre – Gorakhpur and Head, Research Management, Policy, Planning and Coordination & Communications Unit, ICMR started the workshop with the welcome address. He talked about the journey and evolution of ICMR's communications unit by giving an overview of the CU's role in deep rooting the communications culture at ICMR.

An interactive session was conducted by Global Health Strategies, which provided an overall understanding about the function of media in the country and strategies to engage with the media. Dr. Enna Dogra Gupta, Scientist C, ICMR conducted a session on institutional protocols & policies for Communications. The session provided an overview of ICMR's protocols, media, and social media policies and also highlighted the best practices for development of brand collaterals including reports, white papers, booklets etc. A session on Social Media Master class was taken by Dr. Lokesh Sharma Scientist 'E', ICMR in which he showcased ICMR's journey on social media.

The day two, a session on understanding crisis management was held by Global Health Strategies, which focused on defining crisis and provided the participants with an overview of crisis management. Senior scientists from ICMR- National Institute of Virology, Pune, Dr Sarah Cherian, Dr Pragya Yadav and Dr BV Tandale presented a case study: Crisis management during COVID-19. The two day workshop ended with vote of thanks from Dr. Priya Gaur, scientist C, ICMR.





CELEBRATING 111 YEARS OF ICMR - HISTORY OF INSTITUTE



ICMR - Rajendra Memorial Research Institute of Medical Sciences, Patna

ICMR - Rajendra Memorial Research Institute of Medical Sciences was conceptualized and named in the memory of the first president of Republic of India, Dr. Rajendra Prasad. After the sad demise of Dr. Rajendra Prasad due to chest disease, it was thought to establish an institute in the memory of his name. Under societies Act, "Rajendra Memorial Research Society for Medical Sciences" was formed on July 2, 1963 and after two decades in 1981 it became a part of the Indian Council of Medical Research it started functioning as a centre of research on Kala-azar.

Initially, the Institute started functioning primarily as a chest institute. However, after Kala-azar broke out in an epidemic form in Bihar in 1977, investigations on the disease were started of the affected area by the scientists. Since then its research area has expanded to different aspects of Visceral Leishmaniasis like Clinical, Vector biology and control, Immunological, Biochemical, Molecular biology, Pathological, Parasitological and Social.

The institute's notable contributions remain in-depth review of the kala-azar programme to find gaps and strengthening of elimination strategies. It helped with Miltefosine, the first ever oral drug, for treatment of Kala-azar and PKDL; Paromomycin and amphotericin B registered by DCGI for Kala-azar treatment; and single dose ambisome and combination therapy of miltefosine and Paromomycin was introduced in programme.

The institute has also played a vital role in the development of highly sensitive IQK for quality assessment of IRS with DDT, further being tuned up for its use in IRS with synthetic pyrethroids. Another major contribution is regarding the

human resource development through training to Kala-azar technical supervisors and VBD consultants of all the four endemic states as well as training and re-orientation to MOs, DMOs and paramedical staffs involved in programme

Major projects of the institute included, Vaishali model for Kala-azar elimination, which is a holistic intervention approach in Vaishali district as a model for Kala-azar elimination in close collaboration with Care India, MSF, DNDi, Bihar State Health Dept. and NVBDCP. Planning, execution and strict supervision & monitoring of the activities viz. IEC, training & re-orientation, active case detection, treatment with single dose AmBisome, IRS using DDT/Synthetic pyrethroid etc were the key components.

Another project included the GIS, geo-statistics and remote sensing based model for hot-spot mapping of sandflygenic habitats. Under this project, 12 environmental variables have been developed to explore breeding sites and risk assessment of *P. argentipes* (vector) in kala-azar endemic regions of Bihar. In this assessment, predictive accuracy of the LISS-III (special resolution 23.5 meter) satellite data based model was found to be higher than AWiFS (special resolution 56 meter) models at all buffer sizes.

In the coming years, the institutes aspire to understand more about *Leishmania* biology, epidemiology, diagnosis, treatment and control. Search for newer cost effective drugs against Kala-azar and study the host and parasite interaction responsible for disease progression, cell-cell interaction and protection against the disease by immunological, molecular biological & biochemical tools for designing vaccine and others.



CELEBRATING
111 YEARS OF
ICMR - HISTORY OF
INSTITUTE



ICMR - Regional Medical Research Centre, Port Blair

ICMR - Regional Medical Research Centre, Port Blair is one of the six Regional Centres of Indian Council of Medical Research. The Centre was setup in 1983 with the objectives of carrying out biomedical research on communicable and non-communicable diseases prevalent in Andaman and Nicobar Islands. The institutes special emphasis was on the health problems of the indigenous tribes and to develop technical manpower locally.

Through the years the institute has expanded its research outreach by establishing Tribal Health Research Unit at Car Nicobar for carrying out research among the Nicobarese at Car Nicobar Island and similarly another unit was established at Kamorta to further extend the research activities to the tribes of the remote Nancowry group of islands and Great Nicobar.

In the last four decades, major achievement of the institute has been elimination of diurnally sub-periodic filariasis periodic *W. bancrofti* from Nancowry Islands. In this program Mf survey was conducted after six rounds of MDA (DEC with albendazole) indicating persistence of infection with 3.3% mf prevalence. After this a double fortified salt (DEC + Iodine) was considered as the potential supplementary option. Assessment showed that within one year's of intervention, the mf rate dropped from 2.27% to below 1%.

The other important project has been collection and compilation of information about traditional healers among tribes, their traditional healing practices and biodiversity of medicinal plants in tribal habitats and publication of

Community Biodiversity Registers (CBDR). Based on the information collected, community biodiversity registers were created and copies of these were submitted to the respective tribal councils and to the district administration, which acknowledge the rights of the tribes over this information.

The institute has played a significant role during emergency situations, and outbreaks not only in A&N Islands but also in other parts of the country. In 1993, during Andaman Haemorrhagic Fever outbreak, the centre worked to established that AHF was a clinical variant of leptospirosis. This helped in defining the treatment protocol and thus improved patient outcome. The other important successful intervention was during cholera outbreak in Nancowry islands and post-tsunami relief in 2004-05. In 2005, during flood in Mumbai, a suspected outbreak of Leptospirosis occurred in Mumbai and Thane districts. A team from the Centre was deputed to assist the DHS in diagnosing the cases and investigating the outbreak.

The institutes aspires to achieve excellence in the quality and relevance of biomedical research through continuous technological and infrastructural capacity building, defining research questions in accordance with the health needs of the people, identifying public health challenges and opportunities for intervention and proactively addressing these challenges. Build a reputation of doing international standard research on leptospirosis and develop effective collaboration for prevention of mortality, reduction in morbidity and control of leptospirosis world-wide.

News Roundup

National hospital based registry to identify risks of blood clot in veins launched



National Hospital based registry on Venous Thromboembolic Disorder (i-RegVed) commonly referred to as blood clots in the veins which is a potentially fatal disease in the nation, was launched by Prof. (Dr) Balram Bhargav, Secretary, DHR & DG ICMR on 13th June 2022.

The objective is to generate a nationwide surveillance network of 16 tertiary government hospitals in the country and collect data to generate evidence on VTE prevalence. The data will aid in response planning, development of disease policy and in strengthening healthcare facilities to treat the disease.

“There is no national registry that collects data on VTE at the national level and this exercise will improve the healthcare facilities and assist in planning a speedy reaction to VTE,” said Dr. Nabendu Chatterjee, Head of the Basic Medical Sciences Division, ICMR - NICED and National Coordinator of the registry.

Without therapy, VTE can limit or block blood flow and oxygen, which can harm bodily tissue or organs. According to reports, it is a serious health issue and one of the most prevalent preventable causes of hospital fatalities.

Indian Journal of Medical Research (IJMR) achieves highest ever Impact Factor

Indian Journal of Medical Research (IJMR), published by ICMR achieves a remarkable feat by getting the highest ever Impact Factor as reported in the 2021 Journal Citation Reports (Clarivate Analytics, 2022) of 5.274.

The impact factor of the journal — an index that estimates how many times articles presented in a given journal have been cited in other scientific publications — is at an all-time high.

The flagship journal of ICMR since 1913 is considered one of Asia’s oldest medical journals. IJMR is published monthly, in two volumes, and 12 issues per year and all articles are peer-reviewed. From July, 2022 IJMR will get new editor-in-chief, in Dr. Samiran Panda, former additional Director General of ICMR.

During COVID-19 pandemic journal saw an unprecedented rise in the number of paper submissions. The ICMR has brought out five special issues on Covid, one special issue on ‘One Health’, and another on women and cervical cancer through this period. The current publisher of the journal is Medknow, part of Wolters Kluwer Health, which is one of the largest open-access publishers worldwide with more than 450+ medical journals in its portfolio.



ICMR and IVI, Korea join hands to strengthen vaccine research

Prof (Dr.) Balam Bhargava, Secretary, DHR & Director General, ICMR and other officials of ICMR held a meeting with Dr. Jerome Kim, Director General, International Vaccine Institute at ICMR Headquarters. They discuss the roadmap for vaccine research in India and the South East Asia Region (SEAR). Both agreed to chalk out a three year research agenda and also find ways to establish a vaccine research centre in India.

The International Vaccine Institute (IVI) is a non-profit international organisation, founded in 1997 as a United Nations Development Programme initiative (UNDP). It is one of the world's few organisations dedicated to vaccines and vaccination for global health. IVI focuses on developing vaccinations for infectious diseases that affect the world's poorest people. The organisation tries to make vaccines available to needy populations in developing countries.



World Environment Day celebration at ICMR-NIREH



ICMR - National Institute for Research in Environmental Health, Bhopal celebrated World Environment Day on 05th June by organising a webinar titled 'Only One Earth' and also carried out a plantation drive. The webinar focused on ecological balance - the structure of ecosystems in stable states when species coexist with one another and with their surroundings. It also emphasized on the Heat action plan and water conservation. The celebration of World Environment Day is essential in keeping people aware of the importance of environmental protection and committing to it. It provides a platform for the world to come together on a critical issue of environmental protection and make necessary plans. Every year on June 5, World Environment Day is celebrated all across the globe to raise awareness about the importance of protecting the Earth, our one and only true home.

ICMR - NITM observed World Blood Donor Day 2022

ICMR- National Institute of Traditional Medicine (ICMR-NITM) observed "World Blood Donor Day 2022" by organizing a pledge taking ceremony "Donating blood is an act of solidarity joining the efforts and save lives". It is crucial to raise awareness of the value of blood donation and the need for people to appreciate life. Each and every one of us should donate blood. You should value it and encourage those around you to donate blood since it might save someone's life. World Blood Donor Day is celebrated worldwide on June 14 to increase awareness about the need for safe blood and blood products, as well as to thank blood donors for their selfless act of saving lives.



ICMR-NIIRNCD, Jodhpur celebrated its Foundation Day

ICMR-National Institute for Implementation Research on Non-Communicable Diseases, Jodhpur celebrated foundation day on 27th June 2022. On this occasion, Prof. (Dr) Balam Bhargava, Secretary, DHR & Director General, ICMR & Dr. Samiran Panda, Addl Director General, ICMR addressed the staff. Prof Sanjay Chaturvedi, acting principal, UCMS, Delhi delivered an oration on topic "Role of IR in propagating one health in India."



The Institute was established in 2019 with vision of conducting implementation research for prevention and control of non communicable diseases. The thrust areas of research are cardiovascular diseases, chronic respiratory diseases, environmental health, nutritional disorders, cancers, injury & trauma, mental illnesses including substance abuse, genetic diseases and other non-communicable diseases of public health significance in India.

International Day of **Yoga 2022**

was celebrated at ICMR institutes

The International Day of Yoga 2022 was celebrated worldwide on 21st June 2022. The theme for this year's International Day of Yoga 2022, was "Yoga for Humanity", which appropriately portrays, how during the peak of COVID-19 pandemic, yoga served the humanity in alleviating the sufferings and in the emerging post-covid geo-political scenario too, it has brought people together through compassion, kindness, foster a sense of unity and build resilience among people world over. Various ICMR institutes also organized Yoga demonstration at their premises.



ICMR – Head Quarters, New Delhi



ICMR – NICED, Kolkata



ICMR-RMRIMS, Patna



ICMR-RMRC, Gorakhpur



ICMR - NIMR, New Delhi



ICMR-NCDIR, Bengaluru



ICMR- NITM, Belagavi



ICMR – NIOH, Ahmedabad



ICMR- NIE, Chennai



ICMR – NARI, Pune



ICMR – NJIL&OMD, Agra



ICMR - RMRCNE, Dibrugarh



ICMR-VCRC, Puducherry



ICMR-NIRT, Chennai



ICMR-RMRC Field Station, Keylong

Social Media

ICMR is available on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. For latest update about COVID-19 and other medical research breakthroughs, you can follow ICMR's Official handles

ICMR & DHR under Medical Device & Diagnostics Mission Secretariat unveiled ICMR-DHR-Centre of excellence (CoE) at 7 IITs for fostering @makaindia Product development in Meditech Sector for an Aatma Nirbhar Bharat. @MoHFW_INDIA @DeptHealthRes @AmritMahotsav @iitmadrass

ICMR unveiled ICMR-DHR-Centre of Excellence (CoE) at 7 IITs

CoE will develop Medical Device and Diagnostic Products in Health and Wellness Centres and Public Health programs of Government of India for wider public outreach

Strategic collaboration for product development, validation and health technology assessment leading to commercialization for enabling public access

Department of Health Research
Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
Government of India

9:49 PM - Jun 24, 2022 - Twitter Web App

ICMR & DHR Centre of excellence under ICMR-Medical Device & Diagnostics Mission Secretariat at @iitbombay is an inter-disciplinary multi-institutional facility for medical device innovation. @MoHFW_INDIA @DeptHealthRes @AmritMahotsav

ICMR-DHR Center of Excellence IIT Bombay

ICMR & DHR - Centre of Excellence (CoE) under ICMR-Medical Device and Diagnostics Mission Secretariat (MDMS) at IIT Bombay is an inter-disciplinary multi-institutional facility for medical device innovation, pilot manufacturing & non-clinical

Focus areas include

- Malnutrition management for child and maternal health
- Diagnostics & customized treatment for cancer patients
- Adolescent and adult female reproductive health
- Laparoscopic surgical instruments; and others

7:30 PM - Jun 25, 2022 - TweetDeck

8 Retweets 57 Likes

ICMR & DHR Centre of excellence under ICMR-Medical Device & Diagnostics Mission Secretariat at @iitguwahati is focused on developing State-of-the-art portable point of care and low cost diagnostic kits for health & wellness. @MoHFW_INDIA @DeptHealthRes @AmritMahotsav

ICMR-DHR Center of Excellence IIT Guwahati

ICMR & DHR-Centre of Excellence (CoE) under ICMR-Medical Device and Diagnostics Mission Secretariat (MDMS) at IIT Guwahati is focused on developing low cost diagnostic kits for health & wellness

The detection of liver and kidney disorders is carried out in alignment with National Health Mission catering to the primary care needs of the rural India

CoE collaborated with multidisciplinary team of Doctors from AIIMS, New Delhi, GNRC and GMC Hospital alongside a group of Startups

9:00 PM - Jun 25, 2022 - TweetDeck

6 Retweets 29 Likes

ICMR-DHR Center of Excellence IIT Madras

ICMR & DHR - Centre of Excellence (CoE) under ICMR-Medical Device and Diagnostics Mission Secretariat (MDMS) at IIT Madras will leverage the strength of R&D and innovation to make indigenous healthcare solutions

The primary research goal of CoE is to control blindness using screening devices, improved health care for elderly, mental health management, prevention and control of diabetes, CVD and stroke

CoE will foster the strategic product development with joint effort from Tamilnadu Public Health System and premier medical colleges

9:00 PM - Jun 25, 2022 - TweetDeck

6 Retweets 29 Likes

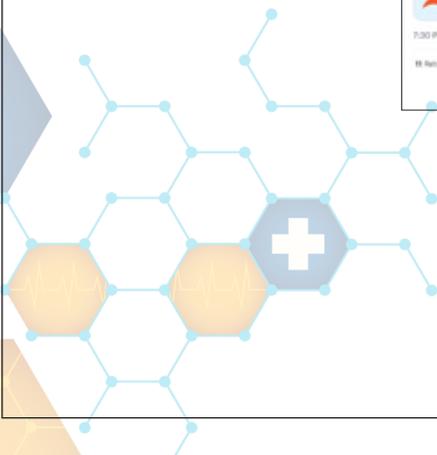


PHOTO OF THE MONTH

ICMR-RMRC, Gorakhpur's field station at Keylong held its stakeholder's meeting and organized two day workshop on Media Training and Crisis communication in Keylong, Lahul & Spiti, Himachal Pradesh.





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