



## **INDIAN COUNCIL OF MEDICAL RESEARCH**

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

**Media report (8<sup>th</sup> February to 14<sup>th</sup> February 2020)**  
**(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.*

*This week report (ICMR IN NEWS dated 8<sup>th</sup> February to 14<sup>th</sup> February 2020) includes the mention Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) in 29 newspapers including top newspapers such as Times of India, The Hindu, Hindustan Times, Outlook India among others.*

*As an organization we first need to fill internal information vacuum at the headquarters as well as the Institutes for better visibility of ICMR which will pave way for complete dilution of external information gap between ICMR and external public including media, government and other related organizations.*

*Syed Adil Shamim Andrabi  
Information Interface Officer/PRO  
ICMR Hqrs, New Delhi*

**Coronavirus epicentre Wuhan: India offered to evacuate students from neighbouring countries**

February 8, 2020/The Indian Express

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**Pune: Planning to expand mandate of NARI, says senior ICMR official**

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**At 17th rank, India among most prone to importing coronavirus: Study**

February 9, 2020/Hindustan Times

**Government pulls up U.S. agency for work on Nipah virus**

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**As Paranoia Goes Viral in Govt Health Circles, Testing Labs Face the Heat**

February 10, 2020/The Wire

**Reputed research lab that detected Nipah virus outbreak in 2018 struck off ICMR list**

February 10, 2020/The New Indian Express

**Coronavirus India Updates: No New Cases From Suspected Samples**

February 10, 2020/The Quint

**1.97 lakh passengers travelling in 1,818 flights screened for nCoV so far**

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**India's supply of these medicines could be hurt by China's coronavirus crisis**

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**Coronavirus fatalities and infection cases surpass that from SARS in just 40 days**

February 10, 2020/Live Mint

**17-month baby quarantined in Naidu**

February 11, 2020/Pune Mirror

**Coronavirus: Death toll crosses 1,000, confirmed cases number 43,112**

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**Kerala all set to declare nCoV fight a success, awaits NIV nod**

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February 12, 2020/nyooz.com

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February 12, 2020/Financial Express

**Delhi: AIIMS' help at doorstep saves heart-attack patient**

February 13, 2020/The Times of India

**Emergency heart care on doorstep**

February 13, 2020/Telegraph India



**Mission Delhi: Heart attack patient treated at doorstep**

February 13, 2020/Drug Today Online

**AIIMS' bike ambulance gives clot busting drug to heart attack patient at home**

February 13, 2020/Hindustan Times

**2 Indians on ship test positive, coronavirus spectre grows bigger**

February 13, 2020/Hindustan Times

**WHO to score countries affected by coronavirus: chief scientist**

February 13, 2020/The Indian Express

**देश में पहली बार मरीज को घर पर मिली क्लॉट बस्टर दवा**

February 13, 2020/Dainik Jagran

### **Coronavirus epicentre Wuhan: India offered to evacuate students from neighbouring countries**

February 8, 2020/The Indian Express

When India sent two special Air India flights to evacuate Indian students from Wuhan in wake of the novel coronavirus outbreak in China's Wuhan, it offered to bring back anyone from neighbouring countries but only seven Maldivian nationals chose to return, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar told Rajya Sabha on Friday. "At the time when our two flights were going, we had told all the students and the larger community in Wuhan that we were prepared not only to bring back our own people, but bring back all the people in our neighbourhood who would like to come back. This was an offer which was made to all our neighbours. Of that, seven nationals of The Maldives chose to avail that offer. But the offer was made to everybody," he said. He was responding to questions by two members regarding reports of India offering to bring back Pakistani nationals. The minister also told the House that there are still about 80 Indians who are in Wuhan, of which 10 were not allowed by the Chinese authorities to leave as they were running a fever. He said, "About 70-odd people also chose voluntarily to stay in Wuhan and not get evacuated." Harsh Vardhan said the government has "provided support to other countries in tackling the challenge" posed by the virus. He said **Indian Council of Medical Research** has offered to test samples for other South-East Asian countries. "

### **At key testing centre in Pune, 604 samples checked so far**

February 9, 2020/The Indian Express

It's a busy day at the **Indian Council of Medical Research**-National Institute of Virology (ICMR-NIV) in Pune. At the institute's influenza centre, Director Dr Priya Abraham takes a quick round of the cordoned-off specimen processing room that holds a highly secure biosafety cabinet. It is here that the processing of nasal and throat swab samples, including of those suspected to be infected with the 2019 novel coronavirus (nCoV), is underway. Between January 24 and February 7, 604 samples have been tested at the institute that is at the centre of the country's efforts to deal with the nCoV outbreak. So far, three of these samples have tested positive. Across the country, over 1,300 samples have been tested at 14 other virus research diagnostic laboratories (VRDLs), including those at the apex ICMR-NIV lab. "Around mid-December, we started following reported cases of mysterious pneumonia in China. Even before nCoV hit the headlines, we had formed an outbreak response group of ICMR-NIV doctors trained in community health (epidemiologists). As the numbers increased in China, we proactively ordered primers, probes and controls from Hong Kong and Berlin, where laboratories to test for nCoV globally were first set up. There were many challenges, including sourcing international quality reagents from overseas to get the tests rolling," says Dr Abraham.

## [Pune: Planning to expand mandate of NARI, says senior ICMR official](#)

February 9, 2020/The Indian Express



There are plans to expand the mandate of the Pune-based National AIDS Research Institute (NARI) and apply the same principles used in tackling HIV towards elimination of other diseases, said Dr R R Gangakhedkar, the national chief of epidemiology at the **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)**.

Dr Gangakhedkar, a recipient of the Padma Shri for his contribution to the fields of science and engineering, told The Indian Express that while cases of HIV were declining, the disease could always come back if there was “complacency”.

“Currently, we are planning to expand the mandate of NARI. This is one organisation that has some experience towards disease elimination. While work on HIV research and related programmes will continue, the learnings from how the disease was controlled and prevented will be applied to other communicable diseases,” said Dr Gangakhedkar, a former director of NARI.

As per official data by the National AIDS Control Organisation, which has played a key role in fighting the disease, there are about 2.1 million patients suffering from the disease in India. In 2018-19, 79 per cent people living with HIV knew their status, 82 per cent diagnosed with HIV were receiving free anti-retroviral therapy and 79 per cent were virally suppressed.

The aim is to bring down the incidence of HIV/AIDS by 20,000 per year for the next two years. The basic target remains that of ‘three zeros’ — zero new infections, zero AIDS-related deaths and zero discrimination.

## [Supply from China hit, Govt takes stock of crucial drug ingredients](#)

February 9, 2020/The Indian Express

With the novel coronavirus outbreak in China stalling import of crucial Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (APIs), the government has asked all state Food and Drug Administrations (FDAs) to reach out to drug manufacturers and understand how much stock each has of 58 crucial APIs.

APIs are a raw material used to make a pharmaceutical drug. India relies on China for 65-70 per cent of its annual API requirement. Stocks may last another two months, several domestic drug manufacturers said. The list of 58 APIs includes Lopinavir and Ritonavir, both used for HIV/AIDS treatment and recently approved by the **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** for treatment of coronavirus infection. Amoxicillin, Cephalexine used as common antibiotics to treat a bacterial infection, Rifampicin used in tuberculosis regimen, and commonly used APIs like Paracetamol, Doxycycline, Gentamycin, Prednisolone, Meropenam are also on the list. The province of Hubei, where novel coronavirus was first reported in December, is a major hub of API manufacturers, apart from two other provinces in China. Since January, Hubei remains in a state of lockdown to limit the spread of the virus. Since a fortnight, domestic manufacturers said, imports of APIs from China have stopped. Prior to that too the supply was slow because of the Chinese New Year and holiday season during December. The government is also collecting data on overseas manufacturers of APIs, the quantity imported since 2018, as well as the production capacities of domestic manufactures in case a scale-up is needed.

## [Supply from China hit, Govt takes stock of crucial drug ingredients](#)

February 9, 2020/Yahoo News



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## [At 17th rank, India among most prone to importing coronavirus: Study](#)

February 9, 2020/Hindustan Times

India ranks 17th among the list of countries most likely to import cases of the novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV), a global import risk assessment model has found. Researchers from the Humboldt University and Robert Koch Institute in Berlin have developed the model that analyses air transportation pattern to calculate the relative risk for the 30 most vulnerable countries (excluding China) of importing cases of the viral disease. Outside China, Thailand, Japan and South Korea are the most likely to import the infections, the model shows. In India, the Delhi airport is the most likely to get infected people, followed by Mumbai and Kolkata.

One of the scientists on the team that developed the model, however, said that the system cannot be used to make quantitative predictions. "This is not so much a tool for making quantitative predictions. Public health officials and policymakers have to develop an intuition because this virus is something unknown. Models can help you develop an intuition," Humboldt physicist Dirk Brockmann told Science Magazine. Brockmann led the modelling team. So far, laboratories of the **Indian Council of Medical Research** have tested 1,486 samples. Of these, all but three tested negative. The first three Indians who tested positive for 2019-nCoV have recovered, health ministry officials said on Saturday. The three will continue to be in isolation for 28 days, the officials said. Meanwhile, 15 students from Kerala, who were stranded in Hubei in China's Wuhan, the epicenter of the outbreak, reached Kochi on Friday night onboard an Air Asia flight. The students were screened at the airport and taken to the Kalamassery Medical College hospital in sterilised ambulances.

## Government pulls up U.S. agency for work on Nipah virus

February 9, 2020/The Hindu



The Indian government has sharply censured the U.S. government's Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for funding an “unapproved” Indian laboratory in Manipal, and not securing the necessary permissions for undertaking training in India for work on Nipah virus, considered a potential bio-weapon.

A Union Health Ministry communication to CDC said the work was undertaken despite knowing that high risk pathogens can be tested only in BSL4 lab. As the highest level of biological safety, a BSL4 lab consists of work with highly dangerous and exotic microbes. Infections caused by these microbes, including Ebola and Marburg viruses, are frequently fatal, and come without treatment or vaccines.

The Ministry said it is taking a “very serious view” of all such contraventions of virus research guidelines that bypass the **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)**/ Health Ministry Screening Committee (HMSC) for permissions.

Meanwhile, in a communication dated October 30, 2019, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare said it had written to both CDC and Manipal Centre for Virus Research (MCVR), ordering them to shut down the study. It told the Manipal institute to transfer all the Nipah virus samples to the certified ICMR-National Institute of Virology in Pune, and demanded that CDC stop all unauthorised funding. A memorandum sent out said the CDC was advised “to stop funding research without approval and working with Nipah virus — a pathogen that belongs to Risk Group 4 classification (RG4) considered lethal since it can be turned into biological weapons.”

## At key testing centre in Pune, 604 samples checked so far

February 9, 2020/Yahoo News

At ICMR-NIV (left), Director Dr Priya Abraham counts sourcing quality reagents from overseas to conduct tests as among the centre’s early challenges. Express Photo by Pavan Khengre It’s a busy day at the **Indian Council of Medical Research**-National Institute of Virology (ICMR-NIV) in Pune. At the institute’s influenza centre, Director Dr Priya Abraham takes a quick round of the cordoned-off specimen processing room that holds a highly secure biosafety cabinet. It is here that the processing of nasal and throat swab samples, including of those suspected to be infected with the 2019 novel coronavirus (nCoV), is underway.

Between January 24 and February 7, 604 samples have been tested at the institute that is at the centre of the country’s efforts to deal with the nCoV outbreak. So far, three of these samples have tested positive. Across the country, over 1,300 samples have been tested at 14 other virus research diagnostic laboratories (VRDLs), including those at the apex ICMR-NIV lab.

“Around mid-December, we started following reported cases of mysterious pneumonia in China. Even before nCoV hit the headlines, we had formed an outbreak response group of ICMR-NIV doctors trained in community health (epidemiologists). As the numbers increased in China, we proactively ordered primers, probes and controls from Hong Kong and Berlin, where laboratories to test for nCoV globally were first set up. There were many challenges, including sourcing international quality reagents from overseas to get the tests rolling,” says Dr Abraham.

## [As Paranoia Goes Viral in Govt Health Circles, Testing Labs Face the Heat](#)



February 10, 2020/The Wire

After the controversy over the study of filoviruses among bats in Nagaland, brought about by unclear allegations from government health bodies pertaining to foreign collaborations, another important research facility has been dragged into a similar dispute, this time over handling of Nipah viruses during the outbreak in Kerala in 2018, the alleged potential for its weaponisation and the lab's tie-up with a US federal agency. Karnataka's Manipal Centre for Virus Research (MCVR) has staunchly denied the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare's allegations that the laboratory was storing Nipah virus samples without being equipped to do so. Hindustan Times first reported these allegations on Friday, and also quoted health ministry officials as saying MCVR lacked government permission to carry out a large multi-year fever surveillance study. The fever study, known as the Acute Febrile Illness project, was funded by the US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Given the foreign involvement, the Hindustan Times report said, government officials were worried the lab's work could be misused to develop bioweapons. The government shut the project in 2019. Arunkumar Govindakarnavar, the virologist who headed MCVR's fever project, told The Wire that his lab had transferred all Nipah samples to the **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** in July 2018 – soon after Kerala's first Nipah outbreak concluded. He also said ICMR and the health ministry had been closely involved in reviewing the fever project since its inception in 2014. "Everything we did was with the knowledge of ICMR and the health ministry. I have several emails from ICMR appreciating our work. I am not sure why this has happened," Govindakarnavar said.

## [Reputed research lab that detected Nipah virus outbreak in 2018 struck off ICMR list](#)

February 10, 2020/The New Indian Express

The Manipal Centre for Virus Research (MCVR) laboratory in Manipal, which received much appreciation for detecting and helping control the Nipah virus outbreak in 2018, has found itself off the list of **Indian Council of Medical Research's (ICMR)** Viral Research & Diagnostic Laboratories for no fault of theirs. However, they continue to be an Influenza lab which is under the National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) of India. In the May 2018 Nipah virus diagnostics guidelines of the National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC), MCVR was listed as a designated Nipah virus-testing laboratory in the private sector, but it is missing in the 2019 guidelines. The lab was reportedly termed as 'under-qualified' by the Indian Government which had asked the United States Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (CDCP) to stop funding research in India without its approval. The MCVR was listed among the nine labs across India which had to be upgraded for avian influenza awareness, and it was the only private lab listed under ICMR's list for research on Influenza. The lab was the first operational ICMR grade-1 virus research and diagnostic lab. According to media reports, the Ministry of Home Affairs has objected to the CDCP -- America's frontline public health agency -- partnering with MCVR to carry out illness surveillance across India. The MHA had received reports that CDCP had trained MCVR to diagnose (test for) Nipah virus, a pathogen that belongs to Risk Group-4 (RG4) classification.

## Coronavirus India Updates: No New Cases From Suspected Samples

February 10, 2020/The Quint



Since the beginning of the coronavirus, a total of 1572 samples have been tested in India till date, so far only 3 are confirmed positive. According to a press release by the **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)**, there have been 654 samples tested from the quarantine centres for those who were rescued from Wuhan - all of these tested negative for nCov. These will be re-tested on the 14th day of quarantine to rule out any scope of infection. Outside of these quarantine zones, 918 samples from suspected cases all over India are being tested. So far, only 3 of these have been confirmed to be positive and they all hail from Kerala.

As of today, no new case in India has emerged from those within and outside quarantine zones. The tests are being conducted in the ICMR-National Institute of Virology, Pune, 13 Virus Research and Diagnostic Laboratories (VRDLs) and National Centre for Disease Control, New Delhi. The laboratory in Pune is the site for quality assurance and confirmation of any positive cases.

## 1.97 lakh passengers travelling in 1,818 flights screened for nCoV so far

February 10, 2020/The Hindu

More than 1.97 lakh passengers travelling in 1,818 flights had been screened for the novel coronavirus, Health Minister Harsh Vardhan said on Monday as he outlined the steps taken by the government to deal with the infection since its outbreak last month. Issuing a suo motu statement in the Lok Sabha, Dr. Vardhan said the screening of the passengers had been initiated at 12 major seaports and all minor ports to identify passengers and crew members coming from China and isolate them in case they were found symptomatic. He told the House that India had also provided support to other countries in tackling the challenge posed by the nCOV disease. "The **ICMR** has offered to do testing of samples for other South East Asian Region countries. Testing of samples from Maldives has already been undertaken. Request from Afghanistan for samples testing has been agreed to. We have agreed to provide technical assistance to Bhutan in screening of passengers also," he said. He thanked the Air India, its crew and the team of doctors and the para medical staff who brought back 654 passengers — 647 Indians (including two embassy officials who were on the ground in Wuhan to coordinate the evacuation operation) and seven Maldivians. He said the government had initiated screening at all integrated checkpoints from Nepal in collaboration with U.P., Uttarakhand, Bengal, Sikkim and Bihar, the Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) and the Land Port Authorities. "In our country, three positive cases have been reported so far from Kerala. All these cases have travel history from Wuhan. They have been isolated and are reported to be clinically stable," Mr. Vardhan said. The government had already constituted a Group of Ministers (GoM) headed by the Health Minister to monitor the virus. Besides, gram sabhas were being organised near the border with Nepal to create awareness. So far, 1,510 samples had been tested of which 1,507 were found negative. Three samples had tested positive and 27 were under process.

## [India's supply of these medicines could be hurt by China's coronavirus crisis](#)



February 10, 2020/The Print

Pharmaceutical companies have given the Narendra Modi government a list of 57 medicines that are likely to go out of stock following the shutdown in China due to the coronavirus outbreak. The medicines include commonly used antibiotics and menopausal medication to vitamin pills.

The government committee, chaired by Joint Drug Controller of India Dr. Eswara Reddy, had asked the pharma industry to report the stock in hand of essential medicines and previous consumption trends, said sources.

The other members of the committee include drug associations IDMA, IPA and OPPI, the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT), the **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)**, the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority and the Pharmaceutical Export Promotion Council of India.

“We have been informed by the drugmakers that the top companies have stock for 50-70 days and medium and small enterprises have stocks for 45-50 days,” said a government official who attended the meeting Monday.

Another representative from the lobby of drugmakers said the shortages are likely to occur “if China remained shut even in the later half of this month”.

IDMA, IPA and OPPI represent top domestic and foreign pharma companies operating in India, including Sun Pharma, Lupin, Zydus Cadila, Novartis and Glenmark, among others.

## [Coronavirus fatalities and infection cases surpass that from SARS in just 40 days](#)

February 10, 2020/Live Mint

The fatalities and cases of infection caused by the deadly novel coronavirus (nCoV) have surpassed those by Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) with coronavirus infecting over 40,573 people and killing 910 in just 40 days.

The SARS also resulted into major fear among public regarding contracting the virus from consuming infected wild animals. This further caused public bans and hitting business of meat markets throughout southern China and Hong Kong. Between November 2002 and July 2003, an outbreak of SARS in southern China reported 8,096 cases and 774 deaths in 17 countries. Coronavirus emerging from Wuhan China has travelled across the world including India. India too has three positive patients in Kerala. However, Union health ministry in India has said one of these three patients in has tested negative for the virus after symptomatic treatment, they are still waiting for the second test to come negative for declaring the patient disease free. According to the **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)**, a total of 1572 samples have been tested as on date 09-February, 2020. 654 samples have been tested from the quarantine centres set up for the individuals evacuated from Wuhan, China. All the 654 tested are negative for Coronavirus (nCoV) and those quarantined will be re-tested on day 14 of the quarantine period. 918 samples are referred from suspected cases throughout the country except those from the quarantine centres. Till date, 3 out of the 918 tested are confirmed laboratory positive for nCoV. Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses that cause illness ranging from the common cold to more severe diseases such as Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS-CoV) and Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS-CoV).

## 17-month baby quarantined in Naidu

February 11, 2020/Pune Mirror



A 17-month old baby has been quarantined at Pune Municipal Corporation's (PMC's) Naidu Hospital on Tuesday, with symptoms of novel coronavirus (nCoV). The infant had travelled to Beijing, with his parents, in January. After returning on January 25, on Tuesday he developed cold, cough and fever (which are symptomatic of nCoV). His family approached Naidu in the evening. "The samples have been sent to National Institute of Virology (NIC). The parents, however, have no symptoms. But since the boy has shown signs, he has been quarantined," informed Dr Ramachandra Hankare, health chief of PMC. As it happened, since the outbreak of the virus, Naidu has had 16 quarantined in its special ward. Of these, 13 have already been discharged. Three were admitted but are stable. Samples of 14 patients have tested negative. Results of the samples of two patients are awaited from NIV. So far, of the 108 passengers from China who landed in Pune, 63 are under observation at home, PMC officials explained. According to the **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)**, 654 samples have been tested from the quarantine centres set up across the country for the individuals evacuated from Wuhan, China. All the 654 tested are negative for 2019 nCoV and those quarantined will be re-tested on day 14 of the quarantine period. As many as 1017 samples are referred from suspected cases throughout the country apart from those from those at quarantine centres. Till date, three out of the 1017 tested are confirmed for nCoV.

## Coronavirus: Death toll crosses 1,000, confirmed cases number 43,112

February 11, 2020/Live Mint

The death toll from the novel coronavirus (nCoV 2019) on Tuesday touched 1,018, with 43,112 confirmed cases spread across 27 countries. India has tested at least 1,622 samples till Monday, of which 654 were from the quarantine centres set up for the individuals evacuated from Wuhan. "All the 654 tested are negative for 2019 nCoV and those quarantined will be re-tested on day 14 of the quarantine period. 968 samples have been referred from suspected cases throughout the country except those from the quarantine centres," said **Indian Council of Medical Research** in a statement. Till date, three of the 968 samples sent have tested positive for the coronavirus. All the positive cases have been reported in Kerala, of which one is recovering. The World Health Organization (WHO), that has declared the outbreak a public health emergency of international concern, has voiced concerns about the poor and middle income countries' handling of the fast spreading virus amid lack of robust healthcare facilities. The WHO and the Foundation for Innovative New Diagnostics (FIND) on Monday signed a memorandum of understanding to formalize a strategic collaboration that will strengthen diagnosis in resource-poor countries by closing major gaps at country level and bolstering disease surveillance that will inform public health initiatives and enhance outbreak preparedness and response. "Global health challenges such as the ongoing novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) outbreak demonstrates that without these essential elements of health systems, we cannot hope to promote health, keep the world safe, and serve the vulnerable. I look forward to working closely with FIND to determine what countries need and to forge a path to deliver these innovations so that no one is left behind," said Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, director-general WHO.

## Kerala all set to declare nCoV fight a success, awaits NIV nod

February 12, 2020/The Print



The fight against novel coronavirus (nCoV) in the state is finally reaching a fruitful conclusion as it is awaiting a formal intimation from the National Institute of Virology (NIV), Pune, to declare that two patients, out of the three positive cases reported from the state, have recovered from the illness. The patients who are on the path of recovery are the first and second nCoV cases in the nation, reported from Thrissur and Alappuzha respectively. While repeated sample testing at NIV Alappuzha turned negative for the two, the department is awaiting documentary evidence from NIV Pune to declare it formally. Rajan Khobragade, principal secretary (health), said, “We could say formally that two of the patients have recovered. But we are waiting for confirmation from the authorised source. The criteria for discharge is that the X-ray should be negative. Two samples taken 24 hours apart should also be negative. It will also involve a clinical decision.”

Meanwhile, sources said that the formal announcement regarding the negative result of confirmed cases will be made by the Health Ministry or by the **Indian Council of Medical Research**. To counter false news and make people aware of the true facts related to the disease, health officials organised a workshop with the help of Facebook India on Tuesday. It was attended by 25 officials from various wings of the department. As of Tuesday, 3,447 people are under surveillance in Kerala. Of them, 3,420 are in home isolation, and 27 in isolation wards at various hospitals. Of the 380 suspected samples sent to NIV, 344 tested negative.

## Heart attack patient treated at doorstep under Mission Delhi initiative

February 12, 2020/Business Standard

A 52-year-old man who suffered a heart attack on Wednesday was treated with clot-busting thrombolysis procedure on his doorstep by a team of paramedics under the 'Mission Delhi' initiative. The **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** claimed that this is the first time that clot buster medicine was administered on a heart attack patient at doorstep before reaching hospital. Thrombolytic therapy is the injection of a medication that breaks up a blood clot and can be injected with a needle into a vein. The treatment was provided Under 'Mission DELHI' (Delhi Emergency Life Heart-Attack Initiative), in which a pair of motorcycle-borne trained paramedic nurses are the first responders for treating heart attack patients to those living within a 5-km radius of the AIIMS. The joint initiative of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) and the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), was launched in April last year. According to ICMR, the Mission Delhi's emergency response room at AIIMS received an emergency call from CRPF camp in RK Puram at around 10.40 am. Immediately, its first responders equipped with hi-tech gadgets and lifesaving drugs on their bike ambulance were dispatched to the spot. It took them around ten minutes to reach the spot as their bike manoeuvred through Delhi's busy traffic. They immediately attended the patient who was having severe chest discomfort.

## [52-year-old heart attack patient treated at doorstep under Mission Delhi initiative](#)



February 12, 2020/Millennium Post

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February 12, 2020/Outlook India

A 52-year-old man who suffered a heart attack on Wednesday was treated with clot-busting therapy at his doorstep by a team of paramedics under the "Mission Delhi" initiative. The **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** claimed that this is the first time that such a treatment was administered under "Mission Delhi".

Clot-busting or thrombolytic therapy is the injection of a medication that breaks up a blood clot and can be injected with a needle into a vein. The treatment was provided Under "Mission DELHI" (Delhi Emergency Life Heart-Attack Initiative), in which a pair of motorcycle-borne trained paramedic nurses are the first responders for treating heart attack patients to those living within a 5-km radius of the AIIMS. The joint initiative of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) and the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), was launched in April last year. According to ICMR, the Mission Delhi's emergency response room at AIIMS received an emergency call from CRPF camp in RK Puram at around 10.40 am. Immediately, its first responders equipped with hi-tech gadgets and lifesaving drugs on their bike ambulance were dispatched to the spot. It took them around ten minutes to reach the spot as their bike manoeuvred through Delhi's busy traffic. They immediately attended the patient who was having severe chest discomfort. The ECG was transmitted to the doctor at a control room and senior cardiologist at AIIMS. Within minutes, heart attack was diagnosed and instructions for the administration of clot buster therapy after taking all precautions was conveyed to the first responders. Meanwhile, the patient was already given the first aid and preliminary drugs, an ICMR official said.

## [52 year old heart attack patient treated at doorstep under Mission Delhi initiative](#)



February 12, 2020/nyooz.com

A 52-year-old man who suffered a heart attack on Wednesday was treated with clot-busting thrombolysis procedure on his doorstep by a team of paramedics under the 'Mission Delhi' initiative. The **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** claimed that this is the first time that clot buster medicine was administered on a heart attack patient at doorstep before reaching hospital. The treatment was provided Under 'Mission DELHI' (Delhi Emergency Life Heart-Attack Initiative), in which a pair of motorcycle-borne trained paramedic nurses are the first responders for treating heart attack patients to those living within a 5-km radius of the AIIMS. Within minutes, heart attack was diagnosed and instructions for the administration of clot buster therapy after taking all precautions was conveyed to the first responders. "This is the first time in India that clot buster medicine was administered on a heart attack patient at doorstep before reaching hospital," the official said.

## [Heart attack patient treated at doorstep under Mission Delhi initiative](#)

February 12, 2020/Financial Express

A 52-year-old man who suffered a heart attack on Wednesday was treated with clot-busting thrombolysis procedure on his doorstep by a team of paramedics under the 'Mission Delhi' initiative. The **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** claimed that this is the first time that clot buster medicine was administered on a heart attack patient at doorstep before reaching hospital. Thrombolytic therapy is the injection of a medication that breaks up a blood clot and can be injected with a needle into a vein. The treatment was provided Under 'Mission DELHI' (Delhi Emergency Life Heart-Attack Initiative), in which a pair of motorcycle-borne trained paramedic nurses are the first responders for treating heart attack patients to those living within a 5-km radius of the AIIMS. The joint initiative of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) and the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), was launched in April last year. According to ICMR, the Mission Delhi's emergency response room at AIIMS received an emergency call from CRPF camp in RK Puram at around 10.40 am. Immediately, its first responders equipped with hi-tech gadgets and lifesaving drugs on their bike ambulance were dispatched to the spot. It took them around ten minutes to reach the spot as their bike manoeuvred through Delhi's busy traffic. They immediately attended the patient who was having severe chest discomfort. The ECG was transmitted to the doctor at a control room and senior cardiologist at AIIMS. Within minutes, heart attack was diagnosed and instructions for the administration of clot buster therapy after taking all precautions was conveyed to the first responders. Meanwhile, the patient was already given the first aid and preliminary drugs, an ICMR official said. "The patient was given clot buster drug (injections) for immediate relief and was transferred to AIIMS emergency by ambulance for further management. Later on, investigations revealed that his blood vessel to the heart has opened up successfully because of the timely treatment.

## [Delhi: AIIMS' help at doorstep saves heart-attack patient](#)

February 13, 2020/The Times of India



A 52-year-old CRPF personnel who suffered a heart attack received treatment at his doorstep recently by a team of paramedics from AIIMS. The team marks India's first project to provide treatment to people who get a sudden heart attack, even before they reach the hospital. The project, funded by the **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)**, is called Mission DELHI (Delhi Emergency Life Heart-Attack Initiative). According to Dr Balram Bhargava, the ICMR director general, the Mission DELHI helpline received an emergency call from the CRPF camp in R K Puram at 10.40am on January 31. Within 10 minutes, two paramedics on motorcycles equipped with life-saving drugs and equipment reached the spot. The patient had severe chest discomfort. Dr Chandini Suvarna, one of the officials, said the first responders administered first aid and preliminary drugs. Then, they conducted an ECG on the spot, the results of which were transmitted to the doctors at AIIMS control room where senior cardiologists confirmed the 52-year-old had suffered from a heart attack. The patient was, therefore, given clot buster drugs for immediate relief and transferred to AIIMS emergency for further management, thus saving his life. "This is the first time in India that clot buster drugs medicine was administered for heart attack at patient's doorstep before reaching hospital," the ICMR said. A heart attack can occur if a blood clot stops the flow of blood through the arteries that supply oxygen-carrying blood to the heart muscle.

## [Emergency heart care on doorstep](#)

February 13, 2020/Telegraph India

Two paramedics on a motorbike zipped through morning traffic in New Delhi on January 31 and gave an injection to a 52-year-old man experiencing a heart attack, the country's first instance of life-saving clot-buster therapy delivered on a patient's doorstep. The paramedics, dispatched by the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi, and carrying cardiac diagnostic equipment and drugs, reached the patient within 10 minutes, diagnosed the heart attack and — guided by AIIMS doctors — administered the clot-buster. The patient is the first in India to receive clot-buster therapy under a project launched by AIIMS and the **Indian Council of Medical Research** in April last year to curb loss of life among heart attack patients who do not make it to hospital in time. Some cardiologists estimate that nearly 50 per cent of heart attack patients who die across the country could be potentially saved if they had received clot-buster therapy in time. In the initial hours, clot-busters can restore blood flow and curb the damage to heart tissue. "It is not only about deaths — patients are left with weak hearts if they do not receive clot-buster therapy in time," said Ambuj Roy, professor of cardiology at the AIIMS. The AIIMS-ICMR project is an experimental 24-hour emergency response initiative that relies on teams of paramedics and cardiologists and teleradiology and remote guidance to provide clot-buster drugs to patients on their doorsteps within a 5-km radius from AIIMS. While doorstep clot-buster therapy has been adopted in developed countries, cardiologists believe traffic, logistics, and lack of infrastructure and trained human resources in India make implementing doorstep therapy a challenge. "Since the project began in April last year, we've received more than 80 phone calls, but the January 31 patient was the first eligible to receive clot-buster therapy," Chandini Suvarna, a scientist at AIIMS and project coordinator told The Telegraph.

## [Mission Delhi: Heart attack patient treated at doorstep](#)

February 13, 2020/Drug Today Online



The team received an emergency call from CRPF Camp, RK Puram, at 10:40 AM and reach the spot within 10 minutes. They immediately attended to the patient, who was having severe chest discomfort. The ECG was transmitted to the doctor in the control room and senior cardiologist at AIIMS. Within minutes, diagnosis of heart attack was confirmed and instructions for the administration of clot buster therapy, after taking all precautions, was conveyed to the first responders. By this time, they had already given him first aid and preliminary drugs. For the patient and his colleagues, it was a mixed feeling of shock and relief when they came to know about the problem and also immediate availability of the treatment for the same. The patient was given clot buster drug (Injection Tenectaplaste 45mg) for immediate relief and was transferred to AIIMS-Delhi emergency by ambulance for further management. Later on, investigations revealed that his blood vessel to the heart had opened up successfully because of timely treatment. This was the first time in India that clot buster medicine was administered for heart attack at patient's doorstep before reaching hospital. People living within a 5-km radius of AIIMS can avail an emergency mobile medical service in case of anyone suffering a heart attack or chest pain with the authorities expanding the initiative's reach.

## [AIIMS' bike ambulance gives clot busting drug to heart attack patient at home](#)

February 13, 2020/Hindustan Times

A 52-year-old who suffered a severe heart attack received medical assistance at their doorstep on Wednesday morning under the 'Mission DELHI' programme of the **Indian Council of Medical Research**. The patient from RK Puram called the helpline number at 10:40 am and got a clot-busting drug within 30 minutes. This is the first time in India a person has received the drug at home. It is usually given to patients in hospitals after investigation. The pilot project was started from the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) last April. Under the scheme, a nurse with diagnostic instruments and drugs are dispatched on a bike ambulance to places within a 5km radius. In the present case, the nurse performed an on-site ECG (electro-cardiograph) and the results were transmitted back to a control room where the doctor diagnosed the condition and instructed the administration of the drug. The person was then brought to the emergency department of AIIMS for treatment. The Mission DELHI (Delhi Emergency Life Heart-Attack Initiative) helpline numbers 14430 and 1800-11-1044 receive up to 30 calls of chest pain each month for which a bike ambulance is dispatched.

## [2 Indians on ship test positive, coronavirus spectre grows bigger](#)

February 13, 2020/Hindustan Times



Two Indian crew members of a cruise ship quarantined in Japan are believed to have been infected by coronavirus, embassy officials said in Tokyo on Wednesday, taking the total number of Indian nationals known to be hit by the highly contagious disease across the world to six. The announcement came on a day of rare hope that the outbreak may be relenting – China recorded its lowest number of daily cases since January – although experts from the World Health Organization (WHO) warned that the easing may only be restricted to China and infections may now begin to spread in other parts of the world. Till Wednesday, the virus – titled COVID-19 -- is confirmed to have infected at least 45,000 people and claimed the lives of 1,117 globally since it began spreading in central China's Wuhan in late December. Three of these infections are in Kerala and one Indian living in United Arab Emirates, too, is believed to have contracted the disease. The infections of Indians on the Diamond Princess take the total number of people who now have the virus on the cruise ship to 174. There were in all 3,711 people on the vessel, including 138 crew and passengers who are Indian nationals. In India, 1,725 samples have been tested till February 12, including 654 samples from the quarantine centres set up for the evacuees from Wuhan, China, according to **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)**. Three students in Kerala were confirmed laboratory positive for the virus and two of them are now free of infection, but all three are still quarantined.

## [WHO to score countries affected by coronavirus: chief scientist](#)

February 13, 2020/The Indian Express

Countries affected by the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) will be scored on the level of clinical severity, World Health Organisation (WHO) chief scientist Dr Soumya Swaminathan told The Indian Express on Wednesday.

India is also among the 24 affected countries which will be part of the global COVID-19 data platform, which will collect clinical data from all affected countries and is now working on a score for each in terms of clinical severity.

“Scoring means from asymptomatic to severe illness and death. The score card is yet to be finalised,” Dr Swaminathan said. According to WHO, there were 42,708 confirmed cases reported in China and 1,017 people have lost their lives to this virus. Of these, there are 393 cases in 24 countries and one death outside China.

India has set up 106 Virus Research and Diagnostic Laboratories towards lab support. From just two nodal laboratories at the helm of affairs for diagnostics during the H1N1 influenza virus (swine flu) outbreak in 2009-10, the **Indian Council of Medical Research** has now established 106 VRDLs, of which 14 are strategically located near international airports and have been equipped to provide lab support and prevent the spread of COVID-19. ICMR Director General Dr Balram Bhargava said that VRDLs at government medical colleges at Ahmedabad and Guwahati were also identified within the network to start testing samples for COVID-19. The ICMR-National Institute of Virology is the apex laboratory in Pune for reconfirmation of any positive samples and quality assurance for testing of samples. The National Centre for Disease Control in New Delhi is also engaged in performing tests for novel coronavirus (nCoV) infections.

## देश में पहली बार मरीज को घर पर मिली क्लॉट बस्टर दवा

February 13, 2020/Dainik Jagran



देश में पहली बार मिशन दिल्ली के तहत हार्टअटैक पीड़ित मरीज का उसके घर पर सफलतापूर्वक इलाज किया गया। एम्स के आपातकालीन विभाग के प्रमुख डॉ. प्रवीण अग्रवाल के नेतृत्व में मिशन दिल्ली की टीम ने क्लॉट बस्टर ड्रग का उपयोग करते हुए एक 52 साल के हार्टअटैक के मरीज का उसके घर पर इलाज किया। एम्स में मिशन दिल्ली के आपातकालीन कक्ष में सीआरपीएफ कैंप, आरके पुरम से सुबह 10:40 बजे एक आपातकालीन कॉल आई। इसके तुरंत बाद, बाइक एम्बुलेंस पर हार्टेक गैजेट्स और जीवन रक्षक दवाओं से लैस डॉक्टरों को मौके पर भेजा गया। दिल्ली की व्यस्त ट्रैफिक में भी बाइक एंबुलेंस पीड़ित तक दस मिनट में पहुंच गई। इसके बाद ईसीजी को नियंत्रण कक्ष में डॉक्टर और एम्स में वरिष्ठ हृदय रोग विशेषज्ञ के पास भेजा गया था। हार्ट अटैक की पुष्टि होने के बाद घटना स्थल पर मौजूद डॉक्टरों को बीमारी से अवगत कराने के बाद क्लॉट बस्टर थेरेपी के निर्देश दिए गए। रोगी को तत्काल राहत के लिए क्लॉट बस्टर ड्रग दिया गया और आगे के इलाज के लिए एम्बुलेंस द्वारा एम्स के आपातकालीन कक्ष में स्थानांतरित कर दिया गया। जांच में पता चला कि समय पर इलाज के कारण उनकी जान बच पाई है। यह देश में पहली बार है कि जब क्लॉट बस्टर दवा अस्पताल पहुंचने से पहले रोगी के दरवाजे पर दिल के दौरे के लिए दी गई।

With regards,

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