



INDIAN COUNCIL OF MEDICAL RESEARCH

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

Media report (06 July to 19 July 2019)
(ICMR IN NEWS)

(Syed Adil Shamim Andrabi)
Information Interface Officer

Preface

The PR Unit/PRO office of ICMR since last one and half years have reached from (where is ICMR located) to (everyday mention of ICMR and DG ICMR in National Media). This change from where to why signifies the media visibility and importance of our organization within this stipulated time duration.

Every week Indian Council of Medical Research and Director General ICMR are mentioned by dozens of daily news papers, periodicals and magazines including online editions.

This week's reports (ICMR IN NEWS dated 06 July to 19 July 2019) includes the mention Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) in 75 news papers including top news papers such as Times of India, The New Indian Express, The Hindu, India Today, Business Standard, News18 among others.

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

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Pune: Experts welcome move to set up National Research Foundation

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Cancer rounds launched in India to improve treatment outcomes and quality of Life

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Malaria, Dengue notifiable diseases: Dr Harsh Vardhan urges City Govt, Municipal Corporations to make Delhi Vector free

July 08, 2019/ Medical Dialogues

Advanced Medical Stopcock Market Set for Rapid Growth, To Reach CAGR of Over 4.1% by 2027

July 08, 2019/ The Edge

Gurugram: Cancer rounds launched in India to improve treatment outcomes and quality of Life

July 09, 2019/ ETHealthworld.com



Campaign 'victory': Bihar considers to ban asbestos, carcinogenic to humans

July 09, 2019/ COUNTERVIEW

162 children died of AES in Bihar, 63 in seven other states: Government

July 09, 2019 / Times of India

162 children died of brain fever, 63 in seven other states

July 09, 2019 / The Tribune

Why colistin should be banned in food-animal production sector in India

July 09, 2019 / Down To Earth Magazine

Researchers claim camel's milk helps to cure this deadly disease

July 09, 2019 / News Track English

162 children died of encephalitis in Bihar, 63 in seven other states: Govt

July 10, 2019 / India Today

Camel milk keeps Raika caste diabetes-free

July 10, 2019 / DNA India

Acute Encephalitis Syndrome: Death toll touches 162 in Bihar, 63 in seven other states

July 10, 2019 / Medical Dialogues

Biosimilars Market size and analysis by leading manufacturers with its application and types 2024 Trends Market Research

July 10, 2019 / Market Reporter

Cancer Rounds launched in India to Improve Treatment Outcomes and Quality of Life

July 11, 2019 / Express Healthcare

India Immune-Oncology Drugs Market: Impact of Existing and Emerging Flexible Market Trends and Forecast 2018-2026

July 11, 2019 / Ace Newz

[A dangerous habit, man with oxygen tank and the story of India's toxic air](#)

July 12, 2019 / Business Standard



[176 died in Bihar due to Acute Encephalitis this year, 872 cases reported](#)

July 12, 2019 / The Asian Age

[Government doing best possible for cancer research: Harsh Vardhan](#)

July 12, 2019 / Times Now

[Minimal number of Mizos in central services: Mizoram minister](#)

July 12, 2019 / EastMojo

[Medical PG students to take mandatory course on research methodology](#)

July 12, 2019 / THE WEEK

[As a Man Struggles With COPD, This is Where Things Stand in India](#)

July 12, 2019 / The Quint

[176 Children Died In Bihar Due To Acute Encephalitis This Year; 872 Cases Were Reported](#)

July 13, 2019 / India Times

[Mahatma Gandhi to be 'health ambassador' for children in new ICMR initiative](#)

July 13, 2019 / Financial Express

[NCG for uniform cancer care](#)

July 15, 2019 / Telangana Today

[ICMR begins trials on vaccine for close contacts of TB patients](#)

July 15, 2019 / The Hindu BusinessLine

[ICMR plans to start trials of two TB vaccines](#)

July 15, 2019 / Deccan Herald

[ICMR launches third phase trial for adult anti-TB vaccine](#)

July 15, 2019 / Down To Earth Magazine

[Clinical trial of TB vaccine for adults begins](#)

July 15, 2019 / Devdiscourse

Clinical trial of TB vaccine for adults begins

July 15, 2019 / Daily Pioneer



H1N1 flu on the rise, 309 cases in M

July 15, 2019 / The Indian Express

ICMR launches vaccine trial to prevent occurrence of TB among close contacts of TB patient

July 15, 2019 / Express Healthcare

ICMR starts trials for two TB vaccine candidates

July 15, 2019/The Week

India launches vaccine trial to prevent tuberculosis

July 15, 2019/The Cable

Clinical trial of TB vaccine for adults begins

July 15, 2019/Press Trust of India

Clinical trial of TB vaccine for adults begins

July 15, 2019/Business Standard

ICMR launches vaccine trial to prevent TB among close contacts of patient

July 15, 2019/Outlook India

ICMR launches vaccine trial to prevent TB in close contacts

July 16, 2019/Pune Mirror

ICMR tests vaccine to check spread of TB in households

July 16, 2019/Live Mint

ICMR launches TB vaccine trial, first since the BCG in the 1920s

July 16, 2019/Medi Bulletin

Medical Council of India Board of Governors get 4 New members

July 16, 2019/ Medical Dialogues

ICMR launches TB vaccine trial, first since the BCG in the 1920s

July 16, 2019/ Medibulletin

ICMR launches TB vaccine trial

July 16, 2019/ Telegraph India



CAIT asks govt to set up panel to deliberate on e-cigarettes regulations

July 16, 2019/ Times of India

ICMR launches vaccine trial to prevent TB among close contacts of patient

July 16, 2019/ Daijiworld

Government readies nationwide genome analysis plan in bid to reduce disease burden

July 16, 2019/ Livemint

NIV scientists put Nipah virus fear to rest, declare Kerala threat-free

July 17, 2019/ Times of India

In battle against spread of chikungunya and dengue, ICMR finds unlikely ally — bacteria

July 17, 2019/ The Indian Express

CAIT asks Government to set up panel to deliberate on e-cigarettes regulations

July 17, 2019/ The Hitavada

Digital Therapeutics Market : Understanding The Key Product Segments And Their Future 2019-2025

July 17, 2019/ Rise Media

Educating people on drug abuse is the way forward

July 17, 2019/ Free Press Journal

Blood samples of JE +ve persons sent for confirmation tests

July 17, 2019/ The Arunachal Times

Punjabi University Professor bags project worth Rs 56 lakh

July 18, 2019/ The Tribune

PG students to undergo mandatory online course

July 18, 2019/ The Statesman

Mission Delhi ups heart attack patients' survival chances

July 18, 2019/ The Weekend Leader



More than 20 Japanese Encephalitis cases reported from East Siang distt in Arunachal Pradesh

July 18, 2019/ All India Radio

Mission Delhi ups heart attack patients' survival chances

July 18, 2019/ India New England

Mission Delhi ups heart attack patients' survival chances

July 18, 2019/The New Indian Express

Mission Delhi ups heart attack patients' survival chances

July 18, 2019/Social News

Mission Delhi ups heart attack patients" survival chances

July 18, 2019/Outlook India

Mission Delhi aims to provide survival chances of heart attack

July 18, 2019/Insight Online News

Mission Delhi to Provide Care to STEMI, Very Serious Type of Heart Attack Patients

July 18, 2019/newsgram.com

India to include bacteria in its anti-dengue arsenal

July 19, 2019/ Financial Express

Mission Delhi ups heart attack patients' survival chances

July 19, 2019/Zee News

एम्स का मिशन दिल्ली: 10 मिनट में घर पहुंच कर बचा रहे हैं हार्ट पेशेंट की जान

July 19, 2019/Navbharat Times

Timely Intervention Saves lives: ICMR shares record on Mission Delhi – STEMI Heart Attack project

July 19, 2019/Medical Dialogues

Pune: Experts welcome move to set up National Research Foundation

July 06, 2019/ The Indian Express

Experts have welcomed the budgetary move to set up a National Research Foundation and according to Dr Shekhar Mande, DG, Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), it will bring about coordination between multiple agencies in the country handling the research. The foundation has been proposed to correct the deficit in research and will centralise funding and ensure coordinated research and innovation efforts, especially in areas that are critical for the country. “It is a good development as there are so many complementary programs underway at various scientific institutes that this will be a concerted and consolidated effort to bring it under one roof,” Mande told The Indian Express. Dr Bhushan Patwardhan, vice chairman, University Grants Commission, also called it a positive move. “There are multiple agencies supporting research, like CSIR, DST and DBT. Many times there has been an overlap in funding and in many cases there are similar proposals. So, funding may have come from different sources as well but there was duplication and to coordinate all this activity, it was felt that a national research foundation should be set up,” said Patwardhan. “This overarching umbrella is just to bring more synergy and ensure better quality and improved outcomes in terms of research publications, patents, and others. There will be no change in the agenda of the institutes, like the **Indian Council of Medical Research** or Indian Council of Agriculture Research. For instance, a virology institute working on a significant research can get funding from ICMR, DBT or CSIR or research on medicinal plants can also get funding from the Ministry of AYUSH and other councils. The main aim is also to avoid duplication, assimilate research grants and focus on better outcomes of research,” said Patwardhan.

Budget 2019: Health Sector to Get Rs 62,398 Crore, Rs 6,400 Crore Allocated For Ayushman Bharat

July 06, 2019/ News18

New Delhi: In her maiden budget speech on Friday, finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman allocated Rs 64,559 crore to the ministry of health and family welfare, which contributes to 2.32 per cent of the total budget and 0.34 per cent of the country’s GDP. Under the ministry of health and family welfare, allocation of budget is made for two separate departments. One department directly focuses on enhancing health and family welfare and another focuses on health research. Of the total amount, Rs 62,659 crore have been allocated for health and family welfare department, whereas Rs 1,900 crore have been set aside for research. About half of the amount allocated will be spent on National Health Mission (NHM) with about Rs 32,995 crore, which is Rs 2,312 crore more than the year 2018-19 (revised estimates). Of this overall amount, Rs 27,039 crore will be spent on Rural Health Mission, and Urban Health Mission will get Rs 950 crore. The remaining amount allocated under National Health Mission will be spend on tertiary care programs and for enhancing health and medical education. The Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY), popularly known as Ayushman Bharat, will receive Rs 6,400 crore as compared to Rs 2400 crore in 2018-19 budget. Also, a majority of amount

allocated to the department of health research will be spend on 'autonomous bodies' in the healthcare sector. **Indian Council of Medical Research** will receive Rs 1,475 crore as compared to Rs 1,448 during 2018-19. An amount of Rs 160.35 crore will be spent on infrastructure development as compared to Rs 107 crore during 2018-19. Human resource and capacity development will receive Rs 87 crore in comparison to Rs 28.01 crore in the year 2018-19.



Mission SHAKTTI: Mahatma Gandhi is ICMR's new health ambassador

July 06, 2019/ Medibulletin

Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has rolled out Mission SHAKTTI (School based Health Awareness, Knowledge Test and Training Initiative) in collaboration with National Gandhi Museum and Directorate of Education, Govt. of Delhi. Through this mission to commemorate 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi and to project Gandhiji as the ambassador of Health; ICMR is creating health awareness among school children. As the Gandhian virtues and philosophy of good health, which he preached and practiced are relevant even in today's time. To keep this philosophy alive ICMR scientists and officers are visiting the schools for active interaction with the school kids to aware them regarding these values for good health. A total of 36 schools of Delhi are participating in this programme. During the visit to the schools the students are made aware with a talk and quiz on Gandhian health philosophy to create awareness among school children. The Mission started today with visit to schools namely GGSSS, Moti Ram memorial, Dilsad Garden, Delhi-95 and Arwachin International School, Gurudwara Road, Dilshad Garden, Delhi-95. At the first event of the day Dr. Rajni Kant, Scientist & Director, ICMR-Regional Medical Research Centre, Gorakhpur who is the Project Coordinator of this programme while addressing the school children said, "Health is the most important aspect of life. In this era of rising lifestyle related diseases, imbibing and following Gandhiji's mantra for good health from the school time itself would lead to a healthy life in the long run. In fact, Gandhiji's teachings of cleanliness for prevention of communicable diseases like malaria, Dengue holds true at all times," he added. Dr. Rajnikant taught kids the best practices for healthy body, healthy mind and healthy environment citing events from Gandhiji's life. At the event Dr. Kalyan Ganguly, Scientist, ICMR and convener of the event said, "Social and behavioural changes as per Gandhiji's health philosophy taught to school children could lead to monumental changes in the society as they are the future of the Nation."

How Air Pollution Is Affecting Chronic Airway Diseases/COPD In India?

July 06, 2019/ Hill Post

India is reeling under the devastating effects of air pollution. According to a 2018 report published by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), one in every eight deaths in India is attributable to air pollution. Around 77% of the population breathes air poorer than the safe limit prescribed by the National Ambient Air Quality Standards. The report mentioned that the average life-expectancy of Indians would have been 1.7 years higher if the air in our cities and towns had been cleaner, and the pollution less than the minimal level. It also revealed that Delhi, UP, Bihar, Haryana and Rajasthan are among the worst affected states. The results were based on the population-weighted annual mean of PM 2.5 in micrograms per cubic meter. PM 2.5 is a deadly air pollutant. It is a group of

airborne solid and liquid particles \approx 2.5 micron in diameter. It infiltrates the lungs and causes chronic respiratory disease. The atmospheric concentrations of PM 2.5 and PM 10 (particulate matter \approx 10 micron) are used as standards for measuring air pollution. Studies have confirmed that the air pollution in India is deteriorating. In 2017, an estimated 12.4 lakh people died due to air pollution-induced health complications, reported a joint study by the **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)**, Public Health Foundation of India (PHFI), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, and The Lancet. 6.7 lakh out of this perished due to ambient air pollution while 4.8 lakh died due to indoor air pollution. Half the fatalities were in persons below the age of seventy. With India making up 18% of the world's population, it meant that internationally 26% of the premature deaths caused by air pollution were suffered by Indians, which is an alarming statistic.



[‘Vazhakoombu,’ a panacea for many health issues](#)

July 07, 2019/ The Hindu

Mention Nendran banana and what jumps to mind are visions of fried chips and other mouthwatering delicacies. So, what about the Vazhakoombu — the inflorescence — which, for the most part, gets tossed out? Now, researchers at the National Institute for Interdisciplinary Science and Technology (CSIR-NIIST) here have established that the Vazhakoombu can be a potent weapon against lifestyle diseases, particularly diabetes and colorectal cancer. The Nendran inflorescence is a rich source of biologically active compounds possessing ‘significant anti-diabetic and anticancer potential,’ an NIIST team led by P. Nisha, Senior Scientist, Agro Processing and Technology Division, along with Arun K.B., a former NIIST researcher now doing his post-doctoral fellowship at the Rajiv Gandhi Centre for Biotechnology, has found. Plantain inflorescence contains a wealth of bioactive antioxidant phytochemicals as well as prebiotic dietary fibre, according to them. They also claim to have figured out the mechanism behind the antidiabetic and anticancer qualities of Nendran blossoms. The research was funded by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and **Indian Council of Medical Research** and the findings have been published in the Journal of Functional Food, Food & Function, Journal of Food Biochemistry and PLOS One, Dr. Nisha said. The inflorescence is widely used in Indian medical systems for treating obesity, kidney stones and diabetes mellitus, but scientific validation of its health benefits have rarely been reported, the researchers said.

[Delhi govt, civic bodies brace up as dengue season kicks in](#)

July 07, 2019/ Business Standard

As the season for spread of vector-borne diseases has kicked in, the city government's health department and local bodies are gearing up to check any possible outbreak of dengue, whose virus thrives during this period. From building awareness to conducting workshop for officials and common man, authorities are bracing up to contain any spread of these diseases. At least 22 dengue cases and 44 of malaria have been reported in Delhi this year till June, even though the vector-borne disease is usually reported between July and November, according to the latest municipal report on vector-borne diseases. Last year, 2,798 dengue cases and four deaths were recorded by the South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC), which tabulates the data on these diseases in the city. With the dengue season kicking in, civic authorities and Delhi health department have stepped up

their campaigns. He also sought appointment of nodal officers at all city hospitals, including the private ones, to ensure government and private interventions and efforts to prevent the vector-borne diseases are in tandem. He said this in a review meet to assess the preparedness for prevention and control of vector-borne diseases like malaria, dengue, and chikungunya in the national capital, which was attended by Delhi Health Minister Satyendra Jain, **ICMR** Director General Dr Balram Bhargava, Delhi Health Secretary, among others. According to the municipal report, 35 cases of malaria were reported in the month of June only, while 11 of dengue were recorded in the same month. Ten cases of chikungunya have also been reported till June 29.



Training course for NIN personnel

July 07, 2019/ Telangana Today

Hyderabad: The National Institute of Nutrition (NIN) is hosting ‘Train the Trainer’ course, which is supported by UK India Education Research Initiative (UKIERI), in developing human resources in pre-clinical drug discovery from July 8 to 12 at its campus. The course is also listed by Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) under the development of industry-relevant learning outcomes and curriculum for education, training and CPD (Continuing Professional Development) of lab animal pharmacologists. The people to be trained under this programme are from various public organisations like AYUSH, ICMR, CSIR, NIPER, JIPMER, ICAR, DRDO, AIIMS, PGIMER, academic institutes, universities, medical colleges and industry. The program’s lead partners are – David Ian Lewis, University of Leeds, UK and Dr. B Dinesh Kumar and Dr. R Hemalatha of the **ICMR**-NIN. “With state-of-the-art animal facility and pre-clinical toxicology facility, NIN is adequately poised to lead this initiative and we are proud at imparting new skill sets much needed in this field”, said Dr. Hemalatha said. The programme is aimed at imparting education and training to the next generation of laboratory animal scientists involved in drug discovery. It also aims to up-skilling and continuing professional development of existing pre-clinical pharmacologists and entrepreneurs, a press release said.

Classifying ENDS devices as DRUGS: Health Ministry asks Attorney General to Opine

July 07, 2019/ Medical Dialogues

NEW DELHI: The Union Health ministry’s proposal to classify ENDS devices, including e-cigarettes, as “drugs” in order to ban their manufacture, sale, distribution and import has been sent to the Attorney General for his opinion, officials said Thursday. Banning alternative smoking devices like e-cigarettes, heat-not-burn devices, vape and e-cigarettes nicotine flavoured hookah is one of the priorities of the Health ministry in the first 100 days agenda of the second term of the Modi government, an official source said. “The proposal which has been approved by the Drug Technical Advisory Board (DTAB), the government’s top advisory body on technical matters related to medicines in the country is now awaiting opinion from the Attorney General,” the source said. The Union Health Ministry’s proposal pertains to classifying ENDS devices, including e-cigarettes as “drugs” under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act. A high-decibal debate is on globally over the harm-reduction aspects of ENDS with some organisations claiming that these devices help in smoking cessation and are less harmful alternatives to

traditional cigarettes, while the government is seeking to ban them contending that they pose health risks to users, similar to those of conventional cigarettes. The proposal stated that under the provisions of 'drugs' in the Act, any item intended to be used as an aid to help quit smoking is covered under the definition of drugs. Apex research body – the **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** has recommended a “complete ban” on Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems (ENDS), saying their use can initiate nicotine addiction among non-smokers also. In a white paper released recently, the ICMR said e-cigarettes adversely affects the cardiovascular system, impairs respiratory immune cell function and airways in a way similar to cigarette smoking and is responsible for severe respiratory diseases.



Cancer rounds launched in India to improve treatment outcomes and quality of Life

July 08, 2019/ Yahoo News

Gurugram (Haryana) [India] July 08(ANI/NewsVoir): Cancer Rounds is a virtual cancer hospital available to patients worldwide. It is the first-ever hospital of its kind providing help to patients suffering from cancer, by being a complete care solution for patients that includes everything from experienced oncologists to dietary counselling with a cancer nutritionist and a psychologist counsellor. Research studies across various bodies have shown that cancer has become one of the leading causes of deaths in developing nations such as India. According to the National Cancer Registry Programme of the **India Council of Medical Research (ICMR)**, the number of deaths due to cancer is seeing a steady increase every year; with the number of recorded deaths in 2018 at 7,84,821, an increase of 68 per cent from 4,65,169 deaths in 2013. The numbers reflect an urgent need to approach this age-old disease with a new lens, considering more than 11 lakh new cases are diagnosed every year in India alone. Cancer Rounds has been founded as a new generation solution to this menace. Comprehensive cancer solutions at all stages to patients in developing countries, through a single destination, is what it provides. Founded by experts from the industry, Cancer Rounds believes that the real cause of high mortality rate is the unavailability of cancer experts and comprehensive care, leading to poor quality of life of the patient, impacting the outcomes of the treatment.

Malaria, Dengue notifiable diseases: Dr Harsh Vardhan urges City Govt, Municipal Corporations to make Delhi Vector free

July 08, 2019/ Medical Dialogues

New Delhi: Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan Thursday asked the Delhi government to make malaria and dengue notifiable diseases and work for making the national capital “vector free”. He also sought the appointment of nodal officers at all city hospitals, including the private ones, to ensure that the government and private interventions and efforts to prevent the vector-borne diseases are in tandem. Vardhan was reviewing the preparedness for prevention and control of vector-borne diseases like malaria, dengue, and chikungunya in the national capital. He urged the city government and the municipal corporations to work towards making hospitals, schools and government buildings “vector-free”. Delhi Health Minister Satyendra Jain, **ICMR** Director-General Dr Balram Bhargava, Chairman of NDMC, Health Secretary in Delhi government, along with medical superintendents of the central and state government hospitals in Delhi, and

representatives of municipal corporations, were among those who attended the meeting, a statement by the Union Health Ministry said. Vardhan was briefed on the current situation of malaria and dengue in the city and the action required from the state government, municipal corporations, state hospitals, school education department, Railways and the containment board etc. it said.



Advanced Medical Stopcock Market Set for Rapid Growth, To Reach CAGR of Over 4.1% by 2027

July 08, 2019/ The Edge

Global Advanced Medical Stopcock Market 2019-2027 report working together carries in-depth Analysis on the varied countries that are actively concerned within the Advanced Medical Stopcock Industry manufacture and associate analysis of the technical barriers, different problems, value effectiveness moving the Market. The global advanced medical stopcock market is expected to reach US\$ 1,167.6 Mn in 2027 from US\$ 841.3 Mn in 2018. The advanced medical stopcock market is estimated to grow with a CAGR of 4.1% from 2019-2027. The market is driven by the factors such as, growing incidence of chronic diseases, rapidly growing number of surgical procedures and growing geriatric population. However, the market is likely to face challenge such as safety concern while using stopcocks, which is likely to impact the market minutely. Global advanced medical stopcock market was segmented by type, and end user. The type segment was classified as low-pressure stopcocks, medium-pressure stopcocks and high-pressure stopcocks. And on the basis of the end user the market is classified as hospitals & clinics, ambulatory surgery centers, and homecare. Some of the major primary and secondary sources included in the report for the advanced medical stopcock market are World Health Organization, American Australian Influenza Surveillance Report, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Dubai Health Authority, **Indian Council of Medical Research**, Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation, International Society of Aesthetic Plastic Surgery and others.

Gurugram: Cancer rounds launched in India to improve treatment outcomes and quality of Life

July 09, 2019/ ETHealthworld.com

Gurugram (Haryana): Cancer Rounds is a virtual cancer hospital available to patients worldwide. It is the first-ever hospital of its kind providing help to patients suffering from cancer, by being a complete care solution for patients that includes everything from experienced oncologists to dietary counselling with a cancer nutritionist and a psychologist counsellor. Research studies across various bodies have shown that cancer has become one of the leading causes of deaths in developing nations such as India. According to the National Cancer Registry Programme of the **India Council of Medical Research (ICMR)**, the number of deaths due to cancer is seeing a steady increase every year; with the number of recorded deaths in 2018 at 7,84,821, an increase of 68 per cent from 4,65,169 deaths in 2013. The numbers reflect an urgent need to approach this age-old disease with a new lens, considering more than 11 lakh new cases are diagnosed every year in India alone. Cancer Rounds has been founded as a new generation solution to this menace. Comprehensive cancer solutions at all stages to patients in developing countries, through a single destination, is what it provides. Founded by experts from the industry, Cancer Rounds believes that the real cause of high

mortality rate is the unavailability of cancer experts and comprehensive care, leading to poor quality of life of the patient, impacting the outcomes of the treatment. "Even if diagnosed at the right time; patients do not get comprehensive and affordable care due to limited resources and huge gaps in technical expertise", said Sumit Wadhwa, Co-founder.



Campaign 'victory': Bihar considers to ban asbestos, carcinogenic to humans

July 09, 2019/ COUNTERVIEW

In a major victory for anti-asbestos campaigners, the Bihar government has said that it is considering an immediate ban on use of asbestos-based products of all kinds in the state. Speaking in the state assembly, Bihar chief minister Nitish Kumar insisted on the need to taking a strong policy decision against carcinogenic asbestos factories. A communication, meanwhile, has been forwarded to the health secretary by Kumar, referring to concerns of Dr Gopal Krishna, who heads the Ban Asbestos Network of India (BANI) "on hazardous asbestos factories to the health department." Krishna said that the health department should looking into the demand for the creation of a register of victims of asbestos related diseases. He added, the government should also create a register asbestos laden buildings and products in general and a probe on the health status of workers, their families and communities linked to and in proximity of the two units of asbestos factories in Bihiya, Bhojpur, run by Tamil Nadu based Ramco Industries Limited. He also shared the findings of the **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)**, Union Ministry of Health and Family welfare which has "informed that major health hazards of asbestos include cancer of lung, mesothelioma of pleura and peritoneum and specific fibrous disease of lung known as asbestosis.

162 children died of AES in Bihar, 63 in seven other states: Government

July 09, 2019 / Times of India

NEW DELHI: As many as 162 children died due to Acute Encephalitis Syndrome (AES) in Bihar till July 2 this year, while 63 fatalities were reported from Assam, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, Manipur, Odisha, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal till June 30, MoS Health Ashwini Choubey said on Tuesday. Responding to a question over whether lychees were the cause of deaths, the minister, in his written reply in Rajya Sabha, said consumption of lychee was safe for healthy individuals, but in "malnourished children, it triggers hypoglycaemia and leads to seizures or AES". "A research study was conducted by the National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC), along with partner institutions, in the year 2013-14 wherein it has been found that when lychee is consumed by malnourished children, it triggers hypoglycaemia and leads to seizures or AES like picture," Choubey said in his written reply. A comprehensive study incorporating various other aspects of aetiology has been initiated by the ministry of health under **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)**. "In 2019, a total of 162 deaths of children have been reported from Bihar till July 2 due to AES. As per information received from the National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme (NVBDCP), 63 deaths have been reported due to AES till June 30 from other seven states of the country - Assam (25), Jharkhand (2), Maharashtra (1), Manipur (1), Odisha (1), Uttar Pradesh (17) and West Bengal (16)," his reply stated. He also elaborated on a number of measures that the Centre has initiated to support the Bihar government in the containment of AES, while adding that "as per constitutional provisions, health is a state subject".

162 children died of brain fever, 63 in seven other states

July 09, 2019 / The Tribune



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Why colistin should be banned in food-animal production sector in India

July 09, 2019 / Down To Earth Magazine

The World Health Organization (WHO) recently released AWaRe, an online tool aimed to ensure safer antibiotic use and reduce antimicrobial resistance (AMR), a global public health threat. As part of this, colistin has been marked ‘Reserved’, meaning it should only be used as a last resort when all other antibiotics have failed. Apparently, colistin is also listed as a highest priority critically important antibiotic (HPCIA) in the WHO’s list of critically important antimicrobials for human medicine. But it is allowed to be used for non-therapeutic purposes in animals. This includes its use for growth promotion (for example fattening of broiler poultry in less time and with less feed) as well as for preventing diseases in healthy animals. Being an HPCIA implies that colistin is the sole or one of limited available therapies to treat serious bacterial infections in people. This is very expensive and hence would be unaffordable to many patients. We would lose lives due to colistin-resistance if it is not timely contained,” said Sarada Devi KL, professor and head at Government Medical College (GMC), Thiruvananthapuram. Indian National Action Plan on AMR aims to restrict and phase out non-therapeutic use of antimicrobials such as their use as growth promoters and disease prevention in animals. After its release in 2017, there has been some discussions around limiting the use of such last resort and high end antibiotics in food-animal production. In a June 2017 meeting initiated by the **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)**, experts agreed that food animals should not be treated with last line antibiotics for humans such as colistin. A year later, the Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries (DADF) under the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers’ Welfare issued a letter to the CDSCO (Central Drugs Standards Control Organisation), the apex drug regulator of India, recommending a ban on growth promotional use of colistin in animal feed as a premix or supplement.

[Researchers claim camel's milk helps to cure this deadly disease](#)

July 09, 2019 / News Track English



Jaipur: If you are fond of eating sweets, you will get the advice of your doctors once you reduce your sugar intake. The number of people suffering from sugar is increasing all over the country. But research in Rajasthan has shown that the effect of this disease is very low on the people who drinks camel's milk. In Karnataka, political drama peaks, 11 rebel MLAs to take decision on speaker The people of Raika, who live in the rural areas of Rajasthan, are camel-rearers. The number of people suffering from sugar was found to be very low. This is the reason why the continuous consumption of camel milk has been reported. For the first time, on caste basis, the research was jointly conducted by SP Medical College Bikaner and Jodhpur Desert Medical Centre, led by the **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)**. Another hole in the sinking boat of Congress, MLA Roshan Baig to work with BJP now! The ICMR in its survey covered the figures of 24 thousand people in eight districts of the state from 2015 to 2018. It involved people belonging to different castes to find out what the sugar victims are. At the same time, the reasons for the unexpected rise in sugar levels were investigated. On the other hand, the least affected or free caste was the least affected by sugar, and tried to find out the reason behind it. The survey found that the lowest of those who drink camel milk was 0. 15 per cent of the people were found to be suffering from sugar.

[162 children died of encephalitis in Bihar, 63 in seven other states: Govt](#)

July 10, 2019 / India Today

As many as 162 children died due to acute encephalitis syndrome (AES) in Bihar till July 2 this year, while 63 fatalities were reported from Assam, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, Manipur, Odisha, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal till June 30, MoS Health Ashwini Choubey said on Tuesday. Responding to a question over whether lychees were the cause of deaths, the minister, in his written reply in Rajya Sabha, said consumption of lychee was safe for healthy individuals, but in "malnourished children, it triggers hypoglycaemia and leads to seizures or AES". "A research study was conducted by the National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC), along with partner institutions, in the year 2013-14 wherein it has been found that when lychee is consumed by malnourished children, it triggers hypoglycaemia and leads to seizures or AES like picture," Choubey said in his written reply. On the basis of the study, an intervention strategy for awareness and nutritional supplementation was recommended to the state, the minister said. A comprehensive study incorporating various other aspects of aetiology has been initiated by the Ministry of Health under **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)**.

[Camel milk keeps Raika caste diabetes-free](#)

July 10, 2019 / DNA India

India is well-known capital for diabetes and there is very little awareness on how to prevent the spread of it. High stress levels and sedentary are considered to be major cause of presence of high blood sugar levels among the people living in metros. But a study conducted by ICMR in Rajasthan shows how camel milk has helped a caste stay away from the fast-spreading lifestyle disease. The **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** conducted a survey classifying the total participants of the survey on the basis of caste. The survey carried over a period of

three years from 2015-2018 recorded the sugar levels and diabetic conditions prevailing amongst the 24,000 residents of the eight areas of Bikaner, Nagaur, Shriganganagar, Jaisalmer, Ajmer, Jodhpur, Barmer and Pali districts in Rajasthan. The survey found that the sugar levels differ from caste to caste depending on their affinity towards sugar or sweets, in general. In the survey, people belonging to two categories were studied primarily. While the people belonging to the 'Raika' caste or the sugar-free caste recorded low levels of sugar and those belonging to other castes recorded normal, high as well as unprecedented levels of sugar. The main distinguishing factor between these two categories is the consumption of camel's milk.



Acute Encephalitis Syndrome: Death toll touches 162 in Bihar, 63 in seven other states

July 10, 2019 / Medical Dialogues

New Delhi: As many as 162 children died due to acute encephalitis syndrome (AES) in Bihar till July 2 this year, while 63 fatalities were reported from Assam, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, Manipur, Odisha, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal till June 30, MoS Health Ashwini Choubey said on Tuesday. Responding to a question over whether lychees were the cause of deaths, the minister, in his written reply in Rajya Sabha, said consumption of lychee was safe for healthy individuals, but in “malnourished children, it triggers hypoglycaemia and leads to seizures or AES”. “A research study was conducted by the National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC), along with partner institutions, in the year 2013-14 wherein it has been found that when lychee is consumed by malnourished children, it triggers hypoglycaemia and leads to seizures or AES like picture,” Choubey said in his written reply. On the basis of the study, an intervention strategy for awareness and nutritional supplementation was recommended to the state, the minister said. A comprehensive study incorporating various other aspects of aetiology has been initiated by the Ministry of Health under **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)**.

Biosimilars Market size and analysis by leading manufacturers with its application and types 2024 Trends Market Research

July 10, 2019 / Market Reporter

Biosimilars are the officially approved versions of original biologic drugs, and can be manufactured when the original product's patent expires. Biosimilars are relatively cheaper than their biologic counterparts and hence, users have come to prefer biosimilars over biologics in recent years. Biosimilars have great potential to lower costs improving patient access to life-saving medicines prescription drug costs continue to rise. Over the past two decades, biologics have revolutionized patient management in multiple disease cases, including autoimmune diseases, solid tumors, hematologic malignancies, infectious diseases and hormone deficiencies. According to the estimation of American Cancer Society, around 1,688,780 new cancer cases are expected to be diagnosed and 600,920 are expected to die in 2017. **Indian Council for Medical Research** estimated around 1.4 million new cancer cases in 2016 and this number is expected to rise to 1.7 million by 2020. According to the estimation of International Diabetes Federation, nearly 82 million people in the SEA region live with diabetes and the figure is expected to rise to 151 million by 2045. India alone accounted for 72 million cases of diabetes in 2017. Increasing incidences of cancer and chronic diseases, cost of

biosimilars over biologics, strategic collaborations, promising pipeline of biosimilars with the expiration of biologics patents, and an increased demand for such drugs in the emerging countries are the primary factors driving the biosimilar global market. A complex manufacturing process coupled with high cost of development.



[Cancer Rounds launched in India to Improve Treatment Outcomes and Quality of Life](#)

July 11, 2019 / Express Healthcare

Virtual cancer hospital Cancer Rounds has been launched in Gurugram to provide help to patients suffering from cancer. It includes everything from experienced oncologists to dietary counselling with a cancer nutritionist and a psychologist counsellor. Research studies across various bodies have shown that cancer has become one of the leading causes of deaths in developing nations like India. As per the National Cancer Registry Programme of the **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)**, the number of deaths due to cancer is seeing a steady increase every year; with the number of recorded deaths in 2018 at 7,84,821, an increase of 68 per cent from 4,65,169 deaths in 2013. The numbers reflect an urgent need to approach this age-old disease with a new lens, considering more than 11 lakh new cases are diagnosed every year in India alone. On this occasion, Sumit Wadhwa, Co-founder, Cancer Rounds, said, “Even if diagnosed at the right time, patients do not get comprehensive and affordable care due to limited resources and huge gaps in technical expertise.” He added that if every cancer patient gets continuous support from a team of experts including primary oncologist, nutritionist and a counsellor, it can help the patient to stay on course to fight the disease, thus significantly reducing the mortality rate due to cancer. According to Dr Rahul Bhargava, Director — Bone Marrow Transplant, Fortis Hospital, and Co-founder and Chief Medical Advisor, Cancer Rounds, remote monitoring of cancer patients can significantly help them opt for the best treatment at various stages.

[India Immune-Oncology Drugs Market: Impact of Existing and Emerging Flexible Market Trends and Forecast 2018-2026](#)

July 11, 2019 / Ace Newz

Immuno-oncology uses different types of cell-based immune therapies such as monoclonal antibodies, immune checkpoint inhibitors, cytokine-based immunotherapy, cancer vaccines, and other therapies. Commercially available immune-oncology therapies include Iplimumab, Nivolumab, Rituximab, Blinatumomab, Proleukin, Gardasil, and Kymriah. Increasing prevalence of cancer in India is expected to drive India Immuno-Oncology Drugs market growth. For instance, according to National Cancer Registry Programme (NCRP), India, one woman dies of cervical cancer every 8 minutes in India. For every 2 women newly diagnosed with breast cancer, one woman dies of it in India. Furthermore, as many as 2,500 persons die every day due to tobacco-related diseases in India. Tobacco (smoked and smokeless) use accounted for around 317,928 deaths in men and women in 2018. Rising incidences of cancer in India is expected to boost the immuno-oncology drugs market during the forecast period. For instance, according to **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** – National Institute of Cancer Prevention and Research (NICPR), incidence of breast cancer is 25.8 per 100,000 women in 2018 and is expected to reach 35 per 100,000 women in 2026.

[A dangerous habit, man with oxygen tank and the story of India's toxic air](#)



July 12, 2019 / Business Standard

Over 34 years, as India's economy expanded and flourished, Raj Iyer was on the move, travelling at least 14 days a month as a consultant with nonprofit and government agencies. His itinerant, fulfilling life changed 11 years ago when he repeatedly felt short of breath and was eventually diagnosed with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), which had debilitated his lungs and his ability to breathe. Smoking 60 cigarettes a day for 40 years was probably the immediate cause, although worsening air pollution may have played a role. "I knew my symptoms were of a respiratory disease but I didn't know it was COPD," said Iyer. "I certainly didn't know how bad it gets or that it is incurable." Today, Iyer is 69, and his once expansive life has shrunk to a room in his house in Bengaluru's eastern Pai Layout, where he lives with his primary caregivers, his 34-year-old son and 27-year-old daughter-in-law, whose lives, as we explain later, are circumscribed by his illness. As the country ages and air pollution rises, COPD is likely to be increasingly common in India, experts told IndiaSpend. India now accounts for a third (32%) of all disability adjusted life years (DALYs)--an indicator of overall disease burden--for COPD worldwide. Over 26 years to 2016, there was a 54% rise in the share of COPD in India's total disease burden, as COPD moved up from being the eighth-leading cause of death to the second, according to the 2017 India: Health of the Nation's States report by the Public Health Foundation of India (PHFI), a think tank, and the **Indian Council for Medical Research**, a government-run network of research laboratories. Within this rise of COPD, there are medical nuances that explain why the disease is poorly understood, even by doctors, and poorly managed, claiming more Indian lives than it should.

[176 died in Bihar due to Acute Encephalitis this year, 872 cases reported](#)

July 12, 2019 / The Asian Age

New Delhi: MoS for Health and Family Welfare Ashwini Kumar Choubey on Friday informed the Lok Sabha that as many as 872 cases of Acute Encephalitis Syndrome (AES) were reported in Bihar in the year 2019. The minister said that out of 872, 176 succumbed to the disease. He also stated that Japanese Encephalitis (JE) this year led to death of one individual in Bihar whereas 16 cases of it were reported from the state. In a reply to an unstarred question raised by many parliamentarians on the issue of AES, the government further stated that officials from the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) visited Muzaffarpur, Bihar for investigating the AES outbreak, in June 2019. MoS Choubey also replied to a question on 'whether study carried out by Government on aspects of Acute Encephalitis Syndrome and Japanese Encephalitis' and asserted that limited numbers of serum and litchi samples were tested for methylenecyclopropylglycine (MCPG) toxin. At least half were found MCPG positive. Around 90 samples were tested for infectious agents at the **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** and non-ICMR Institutes. Few samples were found positive for dengue, chikungunya and Japanese Encephalitis, majority tested negative, indicates predominantly non-infectious etiology." The government also informed that Central ministry had deputed five teams of doctors along with technicians from central government hospitals to SKMCH to support clinical management.

Government doing best possible for cancer research: Harsh Vardhan

July 12, 2019 / Times Now



New Delhi: The government is doing the best possible for research on cancer and the Department of Biotechnology's funding for such activities has resulted in vastly improved understanding of the disease, Union Minister Harsh Vardhan said on Friday. Observing that cancer is a serious disease, the Science and Technology Minister told the Lok Sabha that best possible is being done for research on cancer. All future health programmes would focus on preventive and promotive healthcare, Vardhan, who also helms the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, said during the Question Hour. Speaker Om Birla suggested that there can be a discussion in the House on cancer and Vardhan said that he would be happy to respond to queries. The minister said the CSIR-National Institute of Science, Technology and Development Studies has not undertaken any research work to check damage to normal cells of the body during cancer treatment. Apart from Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), **Indian Council of Medical Research**, Department of Biotechnology, Department of Science & Technology, Ministry of AYUSH and Department of Atomic Energy are also working in the area of cancer. Over the past decade, Department of Biotechnology's funding in cancer research has yielded a vastly improved understanding of the disease, including some of the genetic and environmental factors and biological mechanisms that cause or contribute to cancer, the minister said. "The Department of Biotechnology has been supporting cancer research in an integrated way to develop new methods to prevent and treat the disease and conducts research especially in challenging areas pertaining to different types of cancer," Vardhan said.

Minimal number of Mizos in central services: Mizoram minister

July 12, 2019 / EastMojo

Aizawl: Mizoram higher and technical education minister Dr R Lalthangliana on Thursday expressed concern about the minimal number of Mizos in central services. Addressing a 'freshers' social-cum-graduation programme' of Johnson College at Vanapa hall in Aizawl on Thursday, the minister said students should take up the challenge to crack central services. "I am much concerned about the minimal number of Mizo students who clear central services. Students should give effort in this regard and take up the challenge that they can do what other people can do," he said. Lalthangliana advised students to have a clear aim and focus on their goals no matter how hard the path to success may be. Students today are the strength of the country, he said. Stating that the young graduating students of today hold the keys to the future of Mizoram, the minister called upon the students to excel in their chosen field of studies and strive to be the best and also diversify their areas of interests. Established in 1894, the 275-bedded Aizawl Vivil Hospital is one of the oldest hospitals run by the state government. It is being currently run with 15 clinical departments, a superspeciality department, four para-clinical departments and various support services. The hospital offers post graduate course (DBN) to five subjects and is a training institute approved by both the Medical Council of India and the Indian Nursing Council. Currently, there are 27 students, including eight women studying DBN course in the hospital. The hospital is currently associated with **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)**, department of biotechnology of Mizoram University and Regional Institute of Paramedical and Nursing Sciences (RIPANS) and undertaking various medical researches.

[Medical PG students to take mandatory course on research methodology](#)



July 12, 2019 / THE WEEK

Starting August, all medical post graduate students will be required to take an online course on research methodology. A decision to make such a course mandatory was taken by the board of governors of the Medical Council of India on Thursday. Members of the board include Dr V.K. Paul, member, Niti Aayog, Dr Randeep Guleria, director, AIIMS and Dr Balram Bhargava, director general, Indian Council of Medical Research. "In order to improve the research skills of post-graduate students, it was felt that there should a uniform research methodology course across the country. All PGs will have to complete the basic research methodology course by the end of their second semester," an MCI official told THE WEEK. Though teaching faculty in medical colleges would be "encouraged" to take the course, the board was yet to take a decision on whether the course would be mandatory for them. The course will be conducted by the National Institute of Epidemiology, **ICMR**, Chennai. Students will be required to register and pay the examination fee on the institute's portal. The course would allow a flexible time for students and faculty to register, and would continue for eight weeks with in-built assignments and assessments. Students would also be required to take an online, offsite exam twice a year. The board has decided to approve a committee for planning and executing the course. Members of the committee include Dr S. Ramji, department of paediatrics, Maulana Azad Medical College, Dr Shally Awasthi, KGMC, Lucknow and Dr Jeeva Shankar, AIIMS, New Delhi. An advisory group would also be constituted for designing and implementing the online course.

[As a Man Struggles With COPD, This is Where Things Stand in India](#)

July 12, 2019 / The Quint

Over 34 years, as India's economy expanded and flourished, Raj Iyer was on the move, travelling at least 14 days a month as a consultant with nonprofit and government agencies. His itinerant, fulfilling life changed 11 years ago when he repeatedly felt short of breath and was eventually diagnosed with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), which had debilitated his lungs and his ability to breathe. Today, Iyer is 69, and his once expansive life has shrunk to a room in his house in Bengaluru's eastern Pai Layout, where he lives with his primary caregivers, his 34-year-old son and 27-year-old daughter-in-law, whose lives, as we explain later, are circumscribed by his illness. Over 21 years to 2011, the number of Indians above the age of 60 rose 93 percent from 53.7 million to 103.8 million. The decadal growth in elderly population between 2001 and 2011 was 35.5 percent, compared to 17.7 percent growth in the general population. As the country ages and air pollution rises, COPD is likely to be increasingly common in India, experts told IndiaSpend. India now accounts for a third (32 percent) of all disability adjusted life years (DALYs)--an indicator of overall disease burden - for COPD worldwide. Over 26 years to 2016, there was a 54 percent rise in the share of COPD in India's total disease burden, as COPD moved up from being the eighth-leading cause of death to the second, according to the 2017 a think tank, and the **Indian Council for Medical Research**, a government-run network of research laboratories. Within this rise of COPD, there are medical nuances that explain why the disease is poorly understood, even by doctors, and poorly managed, claiming more Indian lives than it should.

[176 Children Died In Bihar Due To Acute Encephalitis This Year; 872 Cases Were Reported](#)



July 13, 2019 / India Times

In June, Bihar reported hundreds of cases of Acute Encephalitis Syndrome (AES), resulting into deaths of more than 150 children. The outbreak also exposed state's poor healthcare facilities and apathy towards the condition of children. As many as 872 cases of Acute Encephalitis Syndrome (AES) were reported in Bihar in the year 2019. Of 872 reported cases, 176 died of the disease, said State Health and Family Welfare Ashwini Kumar Choubey in a reply to a question in Lok Sabha. The Japanese Encephalitis also claimed one life while 16 cases of it were reported in the state of Bihar. "In a reply to an unstarred question raised by many parliamentarians on the issue of Acute Encephalitis Syndrome, the government further said that officials from the **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** visited Muzaffarpur, Bihar for investigating the outbreak, in June 2019," said an ANI report. Choubey, replying to a question - "whether study carried out by Government on aspects of Acute Encephalitis Syndrome and Japanese Encephalitis", said limited numbers of serum and litchi samples were tested for methylenecyclopropylglycine (MCPG) toxin. At least half were found MCPG positive.

[Mahatma Gandhi to be 'health ambassador' for children in new ICMR initiative](#)

July 13, 2019 / Financial Express

A new initiative that projects Mahatma Gandhi as 'health ambassador' to create awareness among school children for pursuing a lifestyle that ensures their well being has been launched by the **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)**. "The Gandhian virtues and philosophy of good health, which he preached and practiced, are relevant even in today's time. To keep this philosophy alive, ICMR scientists and officers are visiting the schools for active interaction with children to raise awareness regarding values for good health," the apex health research body said. The initiative, called 'Mission SHAKTTI' (School-based Health Awareness, Knowledge Test and Training Initiative), was recently launched in collaboration with the National Gandhi Museum and Directorate of Education, Delhi government, to commemorate 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. A total of 36 schools of Delhi will be participating in the programme. Rajni Kant, scientist and director at the ICMR-Regional Medical Research Centre, Gorakhpur, and also project coordinator of the programme said, "Health is the most important aspect of life. In this era of rising lifestyle related diseases, imbibing and following Gandhiji's mantra for good health from school time itself would lead to a healthy life in the long run. "In fact, Gandhiji's teachings of cleanliness for prevention of communicable diseases like malaria, dengue holds true at all times," he said.

[NCG for uniform cancer care](#)

July 15, 2019 / Telangana Today

Hyderabad: In an attempt to provide better cancer care services and implement novel strategies to cure cancer, which are framed by expert oncologists from across India, dedicated cancer hospitals in Hyderabad have started joining the National Cancer Grid (NCG), a concept being implemented by the Tata Memorial Hospital in Mumbai. Back in 1990, the rough incidence rate of all kinds of cancers in regions falling under Telangana in the then united Andhra Pradesh was close to 54

patients out of 1 lakh population. Fast forward to a quarter of a century, by 2016, the incidence of the cancer had increased to 72 in TS and 76 in Andhra Pradesh.



Overall, the country had close to 5,48,000 patients suffering from cancers in 1990 and by 2016, the number of cancer patients was 10,69,000. According to the cancer study by **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** and Public Health Foundation of India (PHFI), published in The Lancet journal last year, the crude cancer rate i.e. total number of new cancer cases diagnosed in a specific year, in 1990 was 63 for 1 lakh population that increased to 81 for 1 lakh population in 2016. The PHFI study indicated that throughout the Country, the number of new cases and deaths due to cancer had doubled in India from 1990 to 2016. The national cancer grid essentially has linked all the major cancer hospitals in the country in a network with an aim to provide uniform and standardised cancer care to all the patients who get treatment at these hospitals.

ICMR begins trials on vaccine for close contacts of TB patients

July 15, 2019 / The Hindu BusinessLine

The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) on Monday launched a vaccine trial to prevent occurrence of tuberculosis among close contacts of a TB patient. This is the first-ever government conducted vaccine trial after the BCG vaccine trial that was undertaken decades ago.

Vaccine trial

This vaccine trial is an important step in preventing and lowering the burden of this disease, said an ICMR release. “After a detailed landscape analysis of the available lead vaccine candidates, two potential vaccine candidates — VPM 1002 produced by Serum Institute of India in Pune and Mycobacterium Indicus Pranii (MIP) — were shortlisted for taking forward through phase-III vaccine trials in healthy household contacts of sputum-smear-positive TB patients,” the release said. The study which will test the safety and efficacy of these two vaccines by administering them in close TB contacts as opposed to a control group of close TB contacts who will not receive the vaccine. The study will enrol 12,000 healthy household contacts of sputum-smear-positive TB cases that are at high risk of contracting the disease, from seven sites in six States — Delhi, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Odisha, Tamil Nadu and Telangana.

ICMR plans to start trials of two TB vaccines

July 15, 2019 / Deccan Herald

Indian Council of Medical Research on Monday announced its plans to conduct large-scale clinical trials of two TB vaccines including a made-in-India one, as the country struggles to cope up with a burgeoning load of TB patients. The trials will be conducted over the next three years involving 12,000 individuals in half a dozen states—Delhi, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Orissa, Tamil Nadu, and Telangana. The two vaccines to be tried are VPM1002, developed by Stefan Kaufmann of the Max Planck Institute for Infection Biology and produced by Serum Institute of India, Pune; and MIP or *Mycobacterium Indicus Pranii*, created by G P Talwar, one of the stalwarts of Indian biology. The trials will be carried out on people living in the same household as a TB patient but yet to develop the disease. The aim is to check whether the vaccine can prevent them from infection even if they may be carrying the bacteria and are at high risk. “For those receiving the VPM1002, there would be only one shot. But those getting the MIP, there would be two doses within a gap

of 30 days,” said Rohit Sarin, director of the National Institute of Tuberculosis and Respiratory Disease, Delhi, who will be the trial coordinator. The enrollment will be completed in 7-8 months. “So far the only vaccine against TB is BCG that was developed way back in 1921 and can only protect the children, that too with varying efficacy. Currently, there is no vaccine against adult pulmonary TB,” Gobardhan Das, a professor at Jawaharlal Nehru University and a leading researcher on TB who is not associated with any of the two vaccines, told DH.



[ICMR launches third phase trial for adult anti-TB vaccine](#)

July 15, 2019 / Down To Earth Magazine

The **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** on July 15, 2019 said it has launched the third-phase trials for an anti-Tuberculosis vaccine that could be administered to anybody aged six years and above. Current BCG vaccines are only for neonates. Developing a vaccine to prevent TB among adults has been a formidable challenge, recognised by the World Health Organization (WHO). “The BCG vaccine has not remained that efficacious and hence the need for a new vaccine,” Manjula Singh, a senior scientist with ICMR, told *Down To Earth*. The first two phases of trial have shown promising results, she claimed. “While the neonatal BCG vaccination is partially efficacious at protecting infants and young children, particularly from the most severe consequences of TB disease, it is poorly protective against pulmonary disease in adolescents and adults, and therefore at reducing Mycobacterium tuberculosis (Mtb) transmission,” according to WHO. The WHO End TB Strategy aims at a 95 per cent reduction in TB mortality and a 90 per cent reduction in TB incidence worldwide by 2035. “India aims to eliminate TB by 2025. While a whole range of drugs and diagnostics are being worked upon to achieve this aim, this vaccine shall play a pivotal role in that direction,” Singh said. India has the highest TB burden in the world.

[Clinical trial of TB vaccine for adults begins](#)

July 15, 2019 / Devdiscourse

A vaccine trial to prevent occurrence of tuberculosis among close contacts of a TB patient who are at high risk of contracting the disease was launched on Monday by **Indian Council of Medical Research**. The Phase III trial is being conducted to come up with the first TB vaccine for adults as the BCG vaccine is only for newborns. This vaccine trial is a step towards prevention and decreasing the burden of this disease, a statement by the apex health research body stated. Since, India has the highest number of TB cases in the world, ICMR is undertaking this first TB vaccine clinical trial after the famous BCG vaccine trial undertaken decades back. After a detailed landscape analysis of the available lead vaccine candidates, two potential vaccine candidates VPM 1002 and MIP were shortlisted for taking forward through the phase III vaccine trial in healthy household contacts of sputum smear positive TB patient, it said. The two vaccines are -- VPM1002, which is produced by Serum Institute of India, Pune and Mycobacterium Indicus Pranii (MIP). “This clinical trial will evaluate the safety and efficacy of these two vaccines in a single trial against control group with no vaccine,” the statement said. The study would enroll 12,000 healthy household contacts of sputum smear positive TB cases that are at high risk of contracting the disease, from 7 sites in 6 states, Delhi, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Orissa, Tamil Nadu and Telangana.

Clinical trial of TB vaccine for adults begins

July 15, 2019 / Daily Pioneer



A vaccine trial to prevent occurrence of tuberculosis among close contacts of a TB patient who are at high risk of contracting the disease was launched on Monday by **Indian Council of Medical Research**. The Phase III trial is being conducted to come up with the first TB vaccine for adults as the BCG vaccine is only for newborns. This vaccine trial is a step towards prevention and decreasing the burden of this disease, a statement by the apex health research body stated. Since, India has the highest number of TB cases in the world, ICMR is undertaking this first TB vaccine clinical trial after the famous BCG vaccine trial undertaken decades back. After a detailed landscape analysis of the available lead vaccine candidates, two potential vaccine candidates VPM 1002 and MIP were shortlisted for taking forward through the phase III vaccine trial in healthy household contacts of sputum smear positive TB patient, it said. The two vaccines are -- VPM1002, which is produced by Serum Institute of India, Pune and Mycobacterium Indicus Pranii (MIP). "This clinical trial will evaluate the safety and efficacy of these two vaccines in a single trial against control group with no vaccine," the statement said. The study would enroll 12,000 healthy household contacts of sputum smear positive TB cases that are at high risk of contracting the disease, from 7 sites in 6 states, Delhi, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Orissa, Tamil Nadu and Telangana. At the launch of the clinical trial for the vaccine here, Dr Balram Bhargava, Secretary, Department of Health Research and Director General, ICMR appreciated the government's support and the researchers involved in the trial. He said that the clinical trials are needed in India to show that the vaccine is safe and effective, and that it can provide protection to Indian populations where the disease is endemic. "The ultimate goal is to develop a vaccine that can prevent active TB and be a part of large campaigns aimed at eliminating the disease. This clinical study in India could help achieve this goal and significantly advance the global fight against Tuberculosis," he said. Dr. Rohit Sarin, Director, NITRD said that it is a much-awaited trial and promised full support in timely completion of the exercise. The study has approval of all statutory regulatory bodies of India as per the Indian regulatory guidelines. It has been started at the first site at NITRD here today and would be subsequently initiated at other sites; the goal is to complete its enrollment within 7 to 8 months.

H1N1 flu on the rise, 309 cases in M

July 15, 2019 / The Indian Express

Even as dengue and leptospirosis cases have been in check in Mumbai due to delayed monsoon, cases of H1N1 infection, commonly referred as swine flu, have surged to 36 within a fortnight in July this year, against zero cases reported during the month last year. So far, a total of 1,772 H1N1 flu cases and 191 deaths have been recorded across Maharashtra this year, officials said. According to data from the civic health department, there were a staggering 3,029 H1N1 flu cases in Mumbai in 2015, which dropped to just three in 2016 and again rose to 995 in 2017. In 2018, 25 cases were recorded with the first case coming up in September, while this year already 309 cases have been recorded in the city. Last week, Danishta Khan, 26, died due to a suspected co-infection of H1N1 and leptospirosis. A death review committee will now review the case. He added that **Indian Council of Medical Research** has been conducting research to study the viral strain better. H1N1, a respiratory infection, that started in pigs, causes fever, sore throat, body

ache and chills, and causes death in severe complications. At least 1.5 lakh people across state have been vaccinated against swine flu so far. Most H1N1 flu cases have been reported from Nashik, Nagpur, Ahmednagar and Pune.



[ICMR launches vaccine trial to prevent occurrence of TB among close contacts of TB patient](#)

July 15, 2019 / Express Healthcare

The **Indian Council of Medical Research** launched a vaccine trial to prevent occurrence of TB among close contacts of a TB case (patient). This vaccine trial is an important step in prevention and decreasing the burden of this disease. Since, India has the highest number of TB cases in the world; ICMR is undertaking this 1st TB vaccine clinical trial after the famous BCG vaccine trial undertaken decades back. After a detailed landscape analysis of the available lead vaccine candidates, two potential vaccine candidates VPM 1002 and MIP were shortlisted for taking forward through the phase III vaccine trial in healthy house hold contacts of sputum smear positive TB patient. The two vaccines include VPM1002, which is produced by Serum Institute of India, Pune and the other vaccine is MIP). This clinical trial will evaluate the safety and efficacy of these two vaccines in a single trial against control group with no vaccine. The study would enroll 12000 healthy household contacts of sputum smear positive TB cases that are at high risk of contracting the disease, from seven sites in six states (Delhi, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Orissa, Tamil Nadu and Telangana) of the country. At the launch of the clinical trial for the vaccine at NITRD, Delhi, Dr Balram Bhargava, Secretary, Department of Health Research and Director General, ICMR expressed the appreciation for the government's support and researchers involved in the trial. He said that the clinical trials are needed in India to show that the vaccine is safe and effective, and that it can provide protection to Indian populations where the disease is endemic. The ultimate goal is to develop a vaccine that can prevent active TB and be a part of large campaigns aimed at eliminating the disease.

[ICMR starts trials for two TB vaccine candidates](#)

July 15, 2019/The Week

Soon, Indians will have access to a vaccine that prevents the spread of tuberculosis. The **Indian Council of Medical Research** has launched a clinical trial to prevent the occurrence of TB among close contacts of a patient suffering from the disease. The trial would be ICMR's first for TB after the BCG (Bacillus Calmette–Guérin) vaccine trial that took place several decades ago. India has the highest burden of tuberculosis in the world—each year, 29 lakh new cases of TB are reported. Every year, 4.20 lakh people, mostly poor, die of the disease. Economic loss due to TB has been calculated to be around Rs 20,000 crore per annum. According to the ICMR, two potential candidates—VPM 1002 and MIP (Mycrobacterium Indicus Pranii)—have been shortlisted for going through phase III vaccine trials in healthy contacts of TB patients. Of the two, VPM1002 is being produced by the Serum Institute of India, Pune. VPM1002 is a live recombinant form of BCG that has been developed by Vakzine Projekt Management, Germany and has been licensed to Serum Institute of India. According to the Treatment Action Group, an independent, activist and community-based research and policy think tank, the vaccine was first developed by the Max Planck Institute for Infection Biology, and licensed to the biotech company Vakzine Projekt Management.

India launches vaccine trial to prevent tuberculosis

July 15, 2019/The Cable



The **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** has launched clinical trials for vaccines that prevent the spread of tuberculosis (TB) — even with close contacts to patients suffering from the disease. The Asian country has recorded the highest number of tuberculosis patients in the world with 2.9 million new cases of the disease reported annually while 420,000 people die from it within the same time frame. The resurgence of efforts at ameliorating the plight of Indians with respect to TB comes after similar trials had been carried out several decades ago. ICMR said two potential candidates — VPM 1002 and MIP (mycobacterium indicus pranii) — have been shortlisted for going through phase III vaccine trials in healthy contacts of TB patients. “Of the two, VPM1002 is being produced by the Serum Institute of India, Pune. VPM1002 is a live recombinant form of BCG that has been developed by Vakzine Projekt Management, Germany and has been licensed to Serum Institute of India,” it said. According to the researchers, the trial will evaluate the safety and efficacy of the two vaccines against a control group with no vaccine and would enroll 12,000 household contacts of TB that have reported a high risk of contracting the disease. ICMR said that the trial has obtained approval from statutory regulatory bodies in India and would recruit its contacts from seven sites in six states which would span Delhi, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Orissa, Tamil Nadu, and Telangana.

Clinical trial of TB vaccine for adults begins

July 15, 2019/Press Trust of India

A vaccine trial to prevent occurrence of tuberculosis among close contacts of a TB patient who are at high risk of contracting the disease was launched on Monday by **Indian Council of Medical Research**. The Phase III trial is being conducted to come up with the first TB vaccine for adults as the BCG vaccine is only for newborns. This vaccine trial is a step towards prevention and decreasing the burden of this disease, a statement by the apex health research body stated. Since, India has the highest number of TB cases in the world, ICMR is undertaking this first TB vaccine clinical trial after the famous BCG vaccine trial undertaken decades back. After a detailed landscape analysis of the available lead vaccine candidates, two potential vaccine candidates VPM 1002 and MIP were shortlisted for taking forward through the phase III vaccine trial in healthy household contacts of sputum smear positive TB patient, it said. The two vaccines are -- VPM1002, which is produced by Serum Institute of India, Pune and Mycobacterium Indicus Pranii (MIP). "This clinical trial will evaluate the safety and efficacy of these two vaccines in a single trial against control group with no vaccine," the statement said. The study would enroll 12,000 healthy household contacts of sputum smear positive TB cases that are at high risk of contracting the disease, from 7 sites in 6 states, Delhi, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Orissa, Tamil Nadu and Telangana. At the launch of the clinical trial for the vaccine here, Dr Balram Bhargava, Secretary, Department of Health Research and Director General, ICMR appreciated the government's support and the researchers involved in the trial.

Clinical trial of TB vaccine for adults begins

July 15, 2019/Business Standard



A vaccine trial to prevent occurrence of tuberculosis among close contacts of a TB patient who are at high risk of contracting the disease was launched on Monday by Indian Council of Medical Research. The Phase III trial is being conducted to come up with the first TB vaccine for adults as the BCG vaccine is only for newborns. This vaccine trial is a step towards prevention and decreasing the burden of this disease, a statement by the apex health research body stated. Since, India has the highest number of TB cases in the world, ICMR is undertaking this first TB vaccine clinical trial after the famous BCG vaccine trial undertaken decades back. After a detailed landscape analysis of the available lead vaccine candidates, two potential vaccine candidates VPM 1002 and MIP were shortlisted for taking forward through the phase III vaccine trial in healthy household contacts of sputum smear positive TB patient, it said. The two vaccines are -- VPM1002, which is produced by Serum Institute of India, Pune and Mycobacterium Indicus Pranii (MIP). "This clinical trial will evaluate the safety and efficacy of these two vaccines in a single trial against control group with no vaccine," the statement said. At the launch of the clinical trial for the vaccine here, Dr Balram Bhargava, Secretary, Department of Health Research and Director General, **ICMR** appreciated the government's support and the researchers involved in the trial. He said that the clinical trials are needed in India to show that the vaccine is safe and effective, and that it can provide protection to Indian populations where the disease is endemic.

ICMR launches vaccine trial to prevent TB among close contacts of patient

July 15, 2019/Outlook India

The **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** on Monday launched a vaccine trial to prevent occurrence of tuberculosis (TB) among people present close to patients suffering from it. This is the first-ever government conducted vaccine trial after the BCG vaccine trial that was undertaken decades ago. This vaccine trial is an important step in prevention and decreasing the burden of this disease, said a release from ICMR. "After a detailed landscape analysis of the available lead vaccine candidates, two potential vaccine candidates - VPM 1002 produced by Serum Institute of India in Pune and Mycobacterium Indicus Pranii (MIP) -- were shortlisted for taking forward through the phase III vaccine trial in healthy household contacts of sputum smear positive TB patient," the ICMR said in a statement. The study which will test the safety and efficacy of these two vaccines by administering them in close TB contacts as opposed to a control group of close TB contacts who will not receive the vaccine. The study will enrol 12,000 healthy household contacts of sputum smear positive TB cases that are at high risk of contracting the disease, from seven sites in six states - Delhi, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Orissa, Tamil Nadu and Telangana. Balram Bhargava, Secretary, Department of Health Research and Director General, ICMR said the clinical trials are needed in India to show that the vaccine is safe and effective, and that it can provide protection to Indian populations where the disease is endemic. Rohit Sarin, Director, National Institute of Tuberculosis and Respiratory Diseases (NITRD) said that this is the much awaited trial and assured full support in timely completion of the trial.

ICMR launches vaccine trial to prevent TB in close contacts

July 16, 2019/Pune Mirror



The **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** on Monday launched a vaccine trial to prevent occurrence of tuberculosis (TB) among close contacts of a TB patient. Since India has the highest number of TB cases in the world, ICMR is undertaking this trial for the first time after the famous BCG vaccine trial undertaken decades ago. After a detailed landscape analysis of the available lead vaccine candidates, two potential vaccine candidates VPM 1002 and MIP were shortlisted for taking forward through the phase III vaccine trial in healthy household contacts of sputum smear positive TB patient. One of the vaccines include VPM1002, which is produced by Serum Institute of India, Pune, and the other is MIP (*Mycobacterium indicus pranii*). This clinical test will evaluate the safety and efficacy of these two vaccines in a single trial against a control group with no vaccine. The study would enrol 12,000 healthy household contacts of sputum smear positive TB cases that are at high risk of contracting the disease, from seven sites in six states and one Union Territory (Maharashtra, Karnataka, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, Telangana and Delhi) in India. At the launch of the trial at the National Institute of TB and Respiratory Diseases (NITRD), Delhi, Dr Balram Bhargava, secretary, department of health research and director general, ICMR, said, "India needs the trials to show that the vaccine is safe and effective and that it can provide protection to the Indian populations where the disease is endemic. The ultimate goal is to develop a vaccine that can prevent active TB and be a part of large campaigns aimed at eliminating the disease."

ICMR tests vaccine to check spread of TB in households

July 16, 2019/Live Mint

The **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** has started a vaccine trial to prevent tuberculosis (TB) among those living close to patients suffering from the disease. The clinical trial is aimed at preventing and decreasing the burden of TB in the country. The study will enrol more than 12,000 healthy members of households who are in contact with sputum smear-positive pulmonary TB patients, and are at high risk of contracting the disease, from seven locations across six states—Delhi, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Odisha, Tamil Nadu and Telangana, the apex research organization said in a statement on Monday. The trial has commenced at the National Institute of TB and Respiratory Diseases (NITRD), New Delhi. It will subsequently be rolled out in other cities, according to the statement. The process of enrolment will be completed within 7-8 months, it added. ICMR is undertaking this trial after the Bacillus Calmette–Guérin (BCG) vaccine trial, which also treats TB, was conducted decades ago. "This clinical trial will evaluate the safety and efficacy of these two vaccines in a single trial against control group (not suffering from the disease). The clinical trials are needed in India to show that the vaccine is safe and effective, and that it can provide protection to Indian populations where the disease is endemic," said Balram Bhargava, secretary, Department of Health Research (DHR) and director general, ICMR.

ICMR launches TB vaccine trial, first since the BCG in the 1920s

July 16, 2019/Medi Bulletin



The **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** has launched a vaccine trial to prevent occurrence of TB among close contacts of a TB patient. This vaccine trial is an important step in prevention and in decreasing the burden of this disease.

Since, India has the highest number of TB cases in the world; ICMR is undertaking this 1st TB vaccine clinical trial after the famous BCG vaccine trial undertaken decades back. After a detailed landscape analysis of the available lead vaccine candidates, two potential vaccine candidates VPM 1002 and MIP were shortlisted for taking forward through the phase III vaccine trial in healthy household contacts of sputum smear positive TB patient. The two vaccines include VPM1002, which is produced by Serum Institute of India, Pune and the other vaccine is MIP (Mycobacterium Indicus Pranii). This clinical trial will evaluate the safety and efficacy of these two vaccines in a single trial against control group with no vaccine. The study would enroll 12000 healthy Household contacts of sputum smear positive TB cases that are at high risk of contracting the disease, from 7 sites in 6 states (Delhi, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Orissa, Tamil Nadu and Telangana) of the country. At the launch of the clinical Trial for the vaccine at NITRD, Delhi, Dr. Balram Bhargava, Secretary, Department of Health Research and Director General, ICMR expressed the appreciation for the government's support and researchers involved in the trial. He said that the clinical trials are needed in India to show that the vaccine is safe and effective, and that it can provide protection to Indian populations where the disease is endemic.

Medical Council of India Board of Governors get 4 New members

July 16, 2019/ Medical Dialogues

New Delhi: With the Central Government earlier giving its nod to increasing the number of members in the Medical Council of India Board of Governors (MCI BOG), four new doctors have now been appointed to the highest regulatory body of the medical profession. With these additional appointments, the strength of the MCI Board of Governors has gone up from earlier 7 members to now 11 members. The parliamentary approval came after the Rajya Sabha passed the measure by a voice vote. The Bill that was cleared also called for increasing the members of MCI Board Governors from 7 to 12, while increasing their tenure to a period of 2 years with effect from September 26, 2018. Medical Dialogues team had earlier reported that in view to put an alternative mechanism in place of MCI so as to bring transparency, accountability and quality in the governance of medical education in the country, it was decided to supersede the MCI through the Indian Medical Council (Amendment) Ordinance, 2018, promulgated on September 26, and entrust its affairs to a board of governors consisting of eminent doctors. At that time, the functioning of the council was handed over to a seven member team including Dr. V.K. Paul, Professor & Head, Paediatrics, AIIMS, New Delhi as Chairman and eminent doctors as members including Dr. Randeep Guleria, Director, AIIMS; Dr. Jagat Ram, Director, PGIMER; Dr. BN Gangadharan, Director, NIMHANS; Dr. Nikhil Tandon, Professor & Head, Endocrinology, AIIMS. The 7 member team also had two ex-officio members in Dr S. Venkatesh, Director General of Health Services, MOHFW and Prof Balram Bhargava, Secretary, Department of Health Research and DG **ICMR**.

[ICMR launches TB vaccine trial, first since the BCG in the 1920s](#)

July 16, 2019/ Medibulletin



The **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** has launched a vaccine trial to prevent occurrence of TB among close contacts of a TB patient. This vaccine trial is an important step in prevention and in decreasing the burden of this disease. Since, India has the highest number of TB cases in the world; ICMR is undertaking this 1st TB vaccine clinical trial after the famous BCG vaccine trial undertaken decades back. After a detailed landscape analysis of the available lead vaccine candidates, two potential vaccine candidates VPM 1002 and MIP were shortlisted for taking forward through the phase III vaccine trial in healthy household contacts of sputum smear positive TB patient. The two vaccines include VPM1002, which is produced by Serum Institute of India, Pune and the other vaccine is MIP (Mycobacterium Indicus Pranii). This clinical trial will evaluate the safety and efficacy of these two vaccines in a single trial against control group with no vaccine. The study would enroll 12000 healthy Household contacts of sputum smear positive TB cases that are at high risk of contracting the disease, from 7 sites in 6 states (Delhi, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Orissa, Tamil Nadu and Telangana) of the country. At the launch of the clinical Trial for the vaccine at NITRD, Delhi, Dr. Balram Bhargava, Secretary, Department of Health Research and Director General, ICMR expressed the appreciation for the government's support and researchers involved in the trial. He said that the clinical trials are needed in India to show that the vaccine is safe and effective, and that it can provide protection to Indian populations where the disease is endemic.

[ICMR launches TB vaccine trial](#)

July 16, 2019/ Telegraph India

The **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** has launched a vaccine trial to prevent TB, contracted by nearly 3 lakh people every year in India. The ICMR has undertaken a trial for the first time since the BCG vaccine trial, done decades back. "After a detailed landscape analysis of the available lead vaccine candidates, two potential vaccine candidates VPM 1002 and MIP were shortlisted for taking forward through the Phase III vaccine trial in healthy household contacts of sputum smear positive TB patients," the ICMR said in a statement on Monday. Of the two vaccines, MIP (Mycobacterium Indicus Pranii) was developed indigenously, and the VPM 1002, though was developed by a German scientist, is licensed by the Serum institute of India, Pune, for manufacture. The trial will be done with 12,000 individuals living in close contact with sputum-smear positive TB patients and will be followed for three years. The sample size will be chosen from seven sites in six states—Delhi, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, and Telangana. "India has the highest number of TB cases in the world. Each year 2.8 lakh people develop TB. The deadline given by the Prime Minister for TB eradication is 2025, which is five years of the global deadline. No disease can be eliminated without a vaccine. That is why being a government organisation, the ICMR took this initiative to shortlist the most advanced vaccine candidates, take them through phase III trials, and quickly give a vaccine to the country," ICMR scientist Manjula Singh, who is a co-investigator and co-ordinator for the trial, told this website.

[CAIT asks govt to set up panel to deliberate on e-cigarettes regulations](#)

July 16, 2019/ Times of India



New Delhi, Jul 16 () Traders' body CAIT Tuesday asked the Union Health Ministry to set up an expert committee to deliberate on appropriate regulations for electronic cigarettes or Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems (ENDS). ENDS are devices that heat a solution to create an aerosol, which also frequently contains flavours, usually dissolved into propylene glycol and glycerin. In a memorandum to Health Minister Harshvardhan, CAIT said while over the past decade the government has instituted several tobacco control measures, the rate at which smoking prevalence is dropping has remained low. It said that "tobacco harm reduction" has emerged as a viable solution to reduce this disease burden by substituting the use of combustible cigarettes with lesser harm alternatives like e-cigarettes. "Cigarette smoke exposes smokers to over 400 toxins and 69 known carcinogens, and e-cigarettes, which are an electronic, combustion-free alternative provide users a similar amount of nicotine, without emitting these toxins and cancer-causing chemicals," it said. CAIT said that the panel should invite the views of all relevant stakeholders in the ENDS ecosystem to achieve a regulatory model that truly balances the risks and benefits of this product class. Recently, apex research body - **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)**, in a white paper, had recommended a "complete" ban on Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems (ENDS), including e-cigarettes, saying their use can initiate nicotine addiction among non-smokers. However, consumer body Association of Vapers India (AVI) questioned the veracity of ICMR white paper on ENDS, saying empirical evidence from countries that have allowed e-cigarettes show "smoking rates have declined at a historic pace".

[ICMR launches vaccine trial to prevent TB among close contacts of patient](#)

July 16, 2019/ Daijiworld

New Delhi, Jul 16 (IANS) The **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** on Monday launched a vaccine trial to prevent occurrence of tuberculosis (TB) among people present close to patients suffering from it. This is the first-ever government conducted vaccine trial after the BCG vaccine trial that was undertaken decades ago. This vaccine trial is an important step in prevention and decreasing the burden of this disease, said a release from ICMR. "After a detailed landscape analysis of the available lead vaccine candidates, two potential vaccine candidates - VPM 1002 produced by Serum Institute of India in Pune and Mycobacterium Indicus Pranii (MIP) -- were shortlisted for taking forward through the phase III vaccine trial in healthy household contacts of sputum smear positive TB patient," the ICMR said in a statement. The study which will test the safety and efficacy of these two vaccines by administering them in close TB contacts as opposed to a control group of close TB contacts who will not receive the vaccine. The study will enrol 12,000 healthy household contacts of sputum smear positive TB cases that are at high risk of contracting the disease, from seven sites in six states - Delhi, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Orissa, Tamil Nadu and Telangana. Balram Bhargava, Secretary, Department of Health Research and Director General, ICMR said the clinical trials are needed in India to show that the vaccine is safe and effective, and that it can provide protection to Indian populations where the disease is endemic. Rohit Sarin, Director, National Institute of Tuberculosis and Respiratory Diseases (NITRD) said that this is the much awaited trial and assured full support in timely completion of the trial.

Government readies nationwide genome analysis plan in bid to reduce disease burden



July 16, 2019/ Livemint

NEW DELHI: The government is exploring recreational genetics, a new area in the field of genome testing, for reducing India's disease burden. Private DNA testing laboratories offering recreational genetics tests are already burgeoning in India. Now, the department of biotechnology (DBT) has initiated a programme called human genetics and genome analysis in which the country's genetic resource is being utilized to develop baseline data initially on various ethnic groups for disease susceptibility. Several private laboratories are using recreational genetic tests to offer a tailor-made lifestyle, diet, weight loss, and disease prevention plan for each individual for maintaining optimal health and fitness. While recreational genetic tests are common in the US and several European countries, in India the genetic testing market is still at a nascent stage. The addressable market for recreational genetic tests is 500,000, according to the **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)**. This could actually be in millions, industry experts claim. "As genetic testing can reveal how one's genes behave and respond, personal genetic information can provide data that can help people make more informed health-related decisions about their lifestyle, goals, dietary habits, fitness, nutrition and weight management," said Chandni Luthra, director and co-founder, FutureMed, a Delhi-based biotechnology company.

NIV scientists put Nipah virus fear to rest, declare Kerala threat-free

July 17, 2019/ Times of India

PUNE: People who abandoned their plans to visit Ernakulam in Kerala following Nipah virus scare can visit the place without any worry as scientists at the National Institute of Virology (NIV) have declared the tourist destination threat-free. A 21-year-old man had tested positive for Nipah virus in Ernakulam on June 4. However, quick onsite rapid diagnostic facility, coordinated efforts of the state health machinery and NIV scientists reined in the virus, while preventing its human-to-human transmission. Last year, the virus had claimed 17 lives in an outbreak in Kerala's Kozikode district. "We can only say that the present outbreak is contained as no secondary cases have been reported so far," senior scientist Raman R Gangakhedkar, head (epidemiology and communicable diseases), **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)**, told TOI. The incubation period of the Nipah virus is 21 days. "It is already over 42 days, which means double the incubation period has passed. Hence, we can safely declare that the present outbreak is over," Gangakhedkar said. ICMR-NIV is the only premier virology laboratory in India to test and confirm the presence of Nipah virus. "It has been more than 10 years now that our scientists have been working on developing indigenous tests and reagents for Nipah virus testing as well as standardizing the technology in trapping the fruit bats that carry the virus. This investment has helped," senior scientist D T Mourya, former director of ICMR-NIV, said.

[In battle against spread of chikungunya and dengue, ICMR finds unlikely ally — bacteria](#)



July 17, 2019/ The Indian Express

To control the spread of dengue and chikungunya, scientists at the **Indian Council of Medical Research** have turned to an unlikely new ally — bacteria. Advertising In a project under process over the last year, ICMR researchers have developed a strain of the *Aedes aegypti* mosquito — the main vector that transmits the viruses that cause dengue — into which *Wolbachia*, a naturally occurring bacteria, is introduced. *Wolbachia* “inhibits” viral infection, which means, “people will feel the mosquito bite but they will not be infected. The bacteria will not allow the virus to replicate in the mosquito and so, the virus won’t be transmitted through a bite,” according to Dr Manju Rahi, Scientist-E, ICMR. The mosquito variant has been named the Puducherry strain since it was developed at the Vector Control Research Centre (VCRC), Puducherry in collaboration with Monash University in Australia.

[CAIT asks Government to set up panel to deliberate on e-cigarettes regulations](#)

July 17, 2019/ The Hitavada

For a holistic view, it would be important to establish an expert member committee to evaluate best practices in terms of regulation and results of scientific studies on ENDS,” CAIT said. CAIT said that the panel should invite the views of all relevant stakeholders in the ENDS ecosystem to achieve a regulatory model that truly balances the risks and benefits of this product class. Recently, apex research body - **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)**, in a white paper, had recommended a “complete” ban on Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems (ENDS), including e-cigarettes, saying their use can initiate nicotine addiction among non-smokers. However, consumer body Association of Vapers India (AVI) questioned the veracity of ICMR white paper on ENDS, saying empirical evidence from countries that have allowed e-cigarettes show “smoking rates have declined at a historic pace”. Traders’ body CAIT on Tuesday asked the Union Health Ministry to set up an expert committee to deliberate on appropriate regulations for electronic cigarettes or Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems (ENDS). ENDS are devices that heat a solution to create an aerosol, which also frequently contains flavours, usually dissolved into propylene glycol and glycerin. In a memorandum to Health Minister Harshvardhan, CAIT said while over the past decade the Government has instituted several tobacco control measures, the rate at which smoking prevalence is dropping has remained low. It said that “tobacco harm reduction” has emerged as a viable solution to reduce this disease burden by substituting the use of combustible cigarettes with lesser harm alternatives like e-cigarettes. “Cigarette smoke exposes smokers to over 400 toxins and 69 known carcinogens, and e-cigarettes, which are an electronic, combustion-free alternative provide users a similar amount of nicotine, without emitting these toxins and cancer-causing chemicals,” it said.

Digital Therapeutics Market : Understanding The Key Product Segments And Their Future 2019-2025



July 17, 2019/ Rise Media

The global digital therapeutics market is expected to reach US\$ 8,941.1 Mn by 2025 from US\$ 1,993.2 Mn in 2017. The digital therapeutics market is estimated to grow with a CAGR of 20.8% during the forecast period from 2018 to 2025. The growth of the digital therapeutics market is primarily attributed to the rising pressure on healthcare providers to reduce healthcare costs, rising prevalence of chronic diseases and rising in the number of partnerships and collaborations in the market are the major factors that anticipated to propel the growth for the digital therapeutics market in the forecast period. However, increasing rate of cyber threat and rise in data security issues are expected to act as major challenges hindering the market growth. On the other hand, large number of undiagnosed population is expected to be prevalent future trend in the global digital therapeutics market. Global digital therapeutics market segmented into by application and distribution channel. Based on application, the market is segmented into diabetes, cardiovascular disease, central nervous system disease, respiratory diseases, smoking cessation, musculoskeletal disease, and others. On the basis of distribution channel, the digital therapeutics market classified as patients, providers, payers and employers. The digital therapeutics market was estimated through extensive primary and secondary sources that includes a vast array of government authorized websites such as Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Habib Medical Group (HMG), **Indian Council Of Medical Research (ICMR)**, International Diabetes Federation (IDF), World Health Organization (WHO) and others. The primary respondents included chair-holders and representatives of the demand and supply side for healthcare industries as well as medical professionals at digital therapeutics device manufacturing companies, hospitals, and research centers.

Educating people on drug abuse is the way forward

July 17, 2019/ Free Press Journal

Consumption of psychoactive substances, notably cannabis, alcohol and tobacco, dates back to pre-history, but only in the last century has their cultivation, manufacture, sale and usage been legally regulated. Half-baked knowledge of their effects, coupled with geopolitical concerns, resulted in an irrational regulatory mechanism, which some countries are now seeking to rectify. The attitude of Indian policymakers to recreational drugs is peculiar, to say the least. Recently, the **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** suggested a ban on e-cigarettes, vapes and other forms of electronic nicotine delivery systems (ENDS). Given the evidence that 'e-cigs' are less harmful than regular cigarettes and chewing tobacco, one might have expected ICMR to demand a ban on tobacco altogether. Banning vapes, when tobacco cigarettes, bidis and khaini remain legal, is like permitting guns while prohibiting sling-shots. The reasons if any 'reasoning' went into the proposal at all can be found in numbers. The size of India's tobacco industry is estimated at \$11 billion. It employs 4.6 crore people. Exports amount to nearly a billion dollars a year. Banning the cultivation, manufacture and export of tobacco products would cost the exchequer a pretty penny, besides adding millions of people to the unemployment list.

[Blood samples of JE +ve persons sent for confirmation tests](#)

July 17, 2019/ The Arunachal Times



PASIGHAT, Jul 17: The blood samples of those people, who have been tested positive for Japanese encephalitis (JE) at the District Priority Laboratory (DPL) in the Bakin Pertin Memorial General Hospital here in East Siang district, have been sent to **ICMR**'s regional centre in Assam's Dibrugarh district for confirmation test, said East Siang DMO Dr Kaling Dai. Dr Dai said, more than 20 persons have so far tested positive for JE during the serological test conducted at the DPL here. "However, to confirm JE, a polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test is a must," he said, adding that the test results of the samples sent to the ICMR's laboratory are still awaited. Director of Health Services Dr M Lego on Tuesday said at least 20 JE cases have so far been detected in East Siang alone. Meanwhile, the state health department has geared up to prevent the spread of JE in the state. Besides carrying out massive source reduction activities, the authorities in several districts have banned import of pigs, piglets and ducks from the neighbouring state as a preventive measure. The ban has been imposed in East Siang, Upper Subansiri, Tirap and Papum Pare district. "The department, with the help of the people, has been carrying out source reduction activities in order to destroy probable mosquito breeding sites, besides fogging drives and DDT spraying in all vulnerable locations," Dr Dai said. The Health department has also issued advisories, appealing to the people to sleep under mosquito nets, use mosquito repellents, destroy mosquito breeding sites, keep pigs away from dwelling houses and avoid eating pork until the situation improves.

[Punjabi University Professor bags project worth Rs 56 lakh](#)

July 18, 2019/ The Tribune

An associate professor Dr Om Silakari at the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences and Drug Research at Punjabi University has received a research project from the **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** worth Rs 56 lakh. Dr Om Silakari said he would work on developing new interventions for resistance cancer, while on the other hand Dr Bharti Sapra will function as co-investigator in the project. "The first installment of Rs 37 lakh has already been released," Dr Om Silakari said. Previously, Dr Silakari has completed a number of major research as well as fellowship projects worth Rs 1.3 crore approved by various funding agencies. The first installment of Rs 37 lakh has already been released. Previously, Dr Silakari has completed a number of major research as well as fellowship projects worth Rs 1.3 crore approved by various funding agencies.

[PG students to undergo mandatory online course](#)

July 18, 2019/ The Statesman

All postgraduate (PG) medical students and faculties of teaching hospitals across the country will have to undergo a mandatory online course to upgrade their basic research skills. The course for eight weeks will be conducted by the National Institute of Epidemiology (NIE) under the **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)**. Dr R K Vats, secretary-general of the Medical Council of India (MCI) issued a notice on 9 July directing postgraduate students and teaching doctors to take up the course beginning from the 2019-2020 academic session. The notice states that the PG students will have to complete the course by the end of the second semester every year. Candidates and teaching doctors will have to register their names in the

portal of the NIE. After the completion of the course period both students and teachers will have to sit for an examination for certification. "This will be good for would-be doctors and teachers also if the MCI takes such a step to improve the basic medical research method. Medical Colleges do not have adequate infrastructure facilities for research work for students and faculties," said Dr Sukumar Mukherjee, a senior general medicine expert in the city. "It's also a fact that both medical students and doctors are too busy with the rush of patients at government medical colleges to spend time for research work," Dr Mukherjee felt.



[Mission Delhi ups heart attack patients' survival chances](#)

July 18, 2019/ The Weekend Leader

It takes just 10 minutes to treat someone under the Mission Delhi programme, started by the **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** along with the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS). The Mission Delhi aims to provide care to STEMI, a very serious type of heart attack, patients. A STEMI patient requires treatment within the golden hour (90 minutes) of the onset of symptoms and providing clot buster therapy within 30 minutes. "Just rang up at 14:43 and within ten minutes the team of doctors arrived with their kits. We were all surprised and amazed with the prompt service. We are happy and appreciate people who thought of this initiative," said one of the patients treated by the staff under Mission Delhi. Heart diseases are the leading cause of death in the country. "Ischemic heart disease and stroke account for over 80 per cent of deaths both in rural and urban areas. We need to save precious lives by increasing awareness regarding STEMI symptoms and reaching the patients at the earliest," said Dr Ramakrishnan, a leading cardiologist at AIIMS. The heart is like a motor that pumps blood to the body as well as the heart through three pipes -- the coronary arteries. If any of these pipes is blocked by a clot, the heart tissue beyond that area dies. In the initial hours, clot busters can restore the blood flow and stop the damage to heart tissue. If the treatment is provided in the first 30 minutes, complete recovery is possible," said Dr Praveen Aggarwal from the Department of Emergency Medicine at AIIMS. The motorcycle ambulance system moved easily through traffic jams and offer timely and quality care led by consultants at AIIMS to patients at their residence itself.

[More than 20 Japanese Encephalitis cases reported from East Siang distt in Arunachal Pradesh](#)

July 18, 2019/ All India Radio

In Arunachal Pradesh, more than 20 Japanese Encephalitis (JE) cases have been reported from East Siang District alone, besides a sizable number of fever cases having Acute Encephalitic Syndrome (AES). State Health Department will send a Rapid Response Team (Medicine) to the District to study on the reported Japanese Encephalitis cases and study vulnerability of the vector borne diseases. East Siang District Medical Officer Dr Kaling Dai said the reported JE positive cases were tested in District Priority Laboratory (DPL) in Bakin Pertin Memorial General Hospital in Pasighat. He said these blood samples were also sent to ICMR laboratory at Dibrugarh in Assam for confirmation of JE. The District Priority Laboratory at Pasighat conducts Serological Test, but the **ICMR** laboratories are equipped with technology to conduct Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test, which confirms presence of JE virus in the blood.

[Mission Delhi ups heart attack patients' survival chances](#)

July 18, 2019/ India New England



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July 18, 2019/The New Indian Express

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July 18, 2019/Social News

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[Mission Delhi aims to provide survival chances of heart attack](#)

July 18, 2019/Insight Online News

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[Mission Delhi to Provide Care to STEMI, Very Serious Type of Heart Attack Patients](#)

July 18, 2019/newsgram.com

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[India to include bacteria in its anti-dengue arsenal](#)

July 19, 2019/ Financial Express

Given *Aedes aegypti*—the main vector for dengue, and with *Aedes albopictus*, for chikungunya—is one of the few species of mosquitoes that are not naturally infected by *Wolbachia*, research in recent years has focused on introducing the bacteria to the mosquito in a manner that helps achieve a reduction of the vector population. India has woken up late to *Wolbachia* as a part of its anti-dengue/chikungunya arsenal, but the fact that the country is moving in the direction—the **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** is getting ready to conduct field testing of *Wolbachia*-infected mosquitoes—is itself quite promising. *Wolbachia* is a bacteria that is an obligate intercellular organisms of arthropods (the phylum in the animal kingdom to which insects, including mosquitoes, belong)

that can help destabilise mosquito populations. Given *Aedes aegypti*—the main vector for dengue, and with *Aedes albopictus*, for chikungunya—is one of the few species of mosquitoes that are not naturally infected by Wolbachia, research in recent years has focused on introducing the bacteria to the mosquito in a manner



that helps achieve a reduction of the vector population. It works on multiple fronts—inside the mosquito gut, the bacteria interferes in viral replication by shortening host life-span in *Aedes* sp., ensuring the viral load gets limited; it also causes cytoplasmic incompatibility in an unidirectional or bidirectional manner, i.e., if an Wolbachia-infected male *Aedes* mosquito mates with a female mosquito carrying a different strain of Wolbachia or is uninfected, then the resulting eggs will not be viable, that is, they will produce no offsprings. The Vector Control research Centre at Puducherry has developed a Wolbachia-infected variant for India in collaboration with Monash University in the US.

Mission Delhi ups heart attack patients' survival chances

July 19, 2019/Zee News

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एम्स का मिशन दिल्ली: 10 मिनट में घर पहुंच कर बचा रहे हैं हार्ट पेशेंट की जान

July 19, 2019/Navbharat Times

2 बजकर 43 मिनट पर एक मरीज ने टोल फ्री नंबर 14430 पर कॉल किया कि उन्हें चेस्ट पेन हो रहा है, अगले 10 मिनट में 'मिशन दिल्ली' की टीम उनके हौज खास स्थित घर पहुंच गई और जरूरी इलाज करके उनकी जान बचा ली। एम्स और आईसीएमआर की पहल पर हार्ट के मरीजों को गोल्डन आवर में इलाज मुहैया कराने के मकसद से शुरू की गई मिशन दिल्ली के तहत घर पहुंच कर मरीजों को इमरजेंसी इलाज दिया जा रहा है। इसके लिए एम्स ने चार बाइक लॉन्च की हैं, जिसकी मदद से अब तक एम्स परिसर के 3 किलोमीटर के दायरे में 15 मरीजों की जान बचाने में सफलता मिली है।

मई में एम्स के डायरेक्टर डॉक्टर रणदीप गुलेरिया और आईसीएमआर के डायरेक्टर जनरल डॉक्टर बलराम भार्गव ने मिशन दिल्ली के तहत चार बाइक एम्बुलेंस को लॉन्च किया था। इस मिशन के तहत 12 नर्सों और 4 डॉक्टरों को शामिल किया गया है। मिशन से जुड़े एक डॉक्टर ने बताया कि हमने अपने टोल फ्री नंबर और इस सुविधा के बारे में पैंफ्लेट्स बंटवाए हैं। अब लोगों का अच्छा रिस्पॉन्स आ रहा है। लोग चेस्ट पेन, हार्ट अटैक के लक्षण दिखने पर इस नंबर पर फोन करते हैं, जो नर्स ड्यूटी पर होती है वह उस अड्रेस पर अपनी टीम भेज देती है। उन्होंने बताया कि सारे लोग ट्रेंड होते हैं, मौके पर 10 मिनट में पहुंच जाते हैं और मरीज का तुरंत ईसीजी कर उसे अपने डिवाइस के जरिए कंट्रोल रूम में भेज देते हैं।

Timely Intervention Saves lives: ICMR shares record on Mission Delhi – STEMI Heart Attack project

July 19, 2019/Medical Dialogues

New Delhi 15 cases have been attended under Mission Delhi programme in the last 79 days, a recent release by ICMR (**Indian Council of Medical Research**) has informed. Mission Delhi is the ICMR-AIIMS pilot initiative to provide care to STEMI Heart Attack patients. STEMI Heart attack is an acute, high risk, time-sensitive life-threatening disease. The management of STEMI heart attack patient requires treatment to be started within the golden hour (90 minutes) of the onset of symptoms and providing clot buster therapy to patient within 30 minutes of reaching the hospital. Delays in reaching hospital and initiation of clot buster therapy are the major causes of deaths in STEMI Heart Attack patients. One such patient treated by the staff under mission Delhi stated “Just rang up at 14:43 and within 10 minutes they were here in our Hauz Khas apartment with kits. We were all surprised and amazed with the prompt and wonderful service by the trained medical people at our house. We are very appreciative and thank those who thought of this initiative” On receiving a call at MISSION Delhi’s Toll – Free Emergency Helpline numbers (1800111044 and 14430), the mobile medical nurse team is dispatched immediately for examining the patient, providing necessary medication/CPR, transmitting ECG to consultant at AIIMS. The pilot project caters to an area of approximately 30 sq km around AIIMS with a population of around 7 to 8 lakh.