



INDIAN COUNCIL OF MEDICAL RESEARCH

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

Media report (15 to 21 June 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 15 to 21 June 2019) includes the mention Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) in 35 news papers including top news papers such as Times of India, The New Indian Express, The Hindu Business Line, Business Standard, The Hindustan Times among others.

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

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

Heart Failure Registry to serve as crucial data bank June 1, 2019/**Pune Mirror**
June 15, 2019/**Times of India**

Free dialysis service to begin in 18 hospitals in Assam
June 15, 2019/**Guwahati Plus**

Digital Therapeutics Market is set to boom with \$8,941.1 Million by 2025 with Top Players – CANARY HEALTH, Noom, 2Morrow Livongo Health, Proteus Digital Health, WellDoc, Fitbit, Omada Health, and MANGO HEALTH
June 15, 2019/**Honest Version**

‘Drinking buttermilk improves cardiovascular health’
June 16, 2019/**The Hindu BusinessLine**

Encephalitis deaths: High-level team deployed to Muzaffarpur to set up state-of-the-art research centre
June 17, 2019/**The New Indian Express**

Fewer Litchis, More Glucose, Ending Hunger: How Steps Taken in Time Could Have Saved 125 Children
June 17, 2019/**News18**

Vapes and E-Cigarettes Could Soon Be Classified as ‘Drugs’ in India
June 17, 2019/**VICE**

23-yr-old Nipah patient free from virus, soon to be discharged: Doctor
June 18, 2019/**DNA India**

NatureFresh Acti Heart focuses on complete heart health with new #PooraKhayaal campaign

June 18, 2019/ Exchange4Media

Digital Therapeutics Market to Witness Huge Growth from 2018-2025 and Focusing on Top Key Players – Propeller Health , CANARY HEALTH , Noom, , 2Morrow , Livongo Health , Proteus Digital Health

June 17, 2019/ Honest Version

Centre to form permanent expert group to tackle AES outbreak in Bihar

June 18, 2019/ The Hindu BusinessLine

HC directs clinic to continue stem cell treatment

June 18, 2019/ Business Standard

India May Classify Vapes & E-Cigarettes As ‘Drug’ & Using Your Fancy Equipment Could be Illegal

June 18, 2019/ India Times

Health Ministry to set expert's group to look into AES

June 18, 2019/ Udaipur Kiran

HC seeks ICMR stand on use of human embryonic stem cells for treatment

June 18, 2019/ Business Standard

Can human embryonic stem cells be used for treatment asks Delhi HC

June 19, 2019/ Oneindia

More than 100 children die in India in encephalitis outbreak

June 19, 2019/ The Hilltop Monitor

HYPOPHARYNGEAL CANCER TREATMENT MARKET 2018 GLOBAL ANALYSIS, INDUSTRY SIZE, SHARE LEADERS, CURRENT STATUS BY MAJOR KEY VENDORS AND TRENDS BY FORECAST TO 2026



June 19, 2019/ Veteran's Vista

Internet wave in India The good, the bad and the ugly side to it

June 19, 2019/ Media India Group

Bihar's Encephalitis crisis reveals dismal medical infrastructure

June 19, 2019/ Sify News

Infection Surveillance Solutions Market Development History with Top Players RL Solutions, Wolters Kluwer N.V., ICNet, Baxter International, Atlas Medical Software

June 19, 2019/ openPR

Child deaths by encephalitis continue in Bihar as toll touches 113; doctors, officials clueless

June 19, 2019/ The New Indian Express

Neurologist gets prestigious fellowship

June 19, 2019/ The Hindu

Advanced Medical Stopcock Market Outlook 2027: Top Companies, Trends and Future Prospects Details for Business Development

June 19, 2019/ Honest Version

Health ministry to set up permanent multi-disciplinary group to look into encephalitis cases

June 19, 2019/ India Today

'Hope to nail acute encephalitis syndrome death causes soon'

June 20, 2019/ Times of India

Centre's report on Muzaffarpur hospital: 'Paediatric ICU not fit for the term'

June 20, 2019/ Times of India



Litchi fruit under scanner over encephalitis deaths in Bihar

June 20, 2019/ The Hilltop Monitor

Use of human embryonic stem cells for treatment: HC directs ICMR to clarify stand

June 20, 2019/ Medical Dialogues

Eight ALS ambulances deployed to transport AES patients in Bihar: Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan

June 20, 2019/ Zee News

Centre starts contact-tracing every AES case in Bihar

June 20, 2019/ Zee News

Inaction led to lakhs of new leprosy patients

June 20, 2019/ Deccan Herald

Developed, urbanised districts have high HIV prevalence: Study

June 20, 2019/ The Hindu BusinessLine

7 more children die of AES in Bihar; govt starts survey

June 21, 2019/ The Hindustan Times

V-Valley pollution: KSPCB takes up one more study

June 21, 2019/ The New Indian Express

Heart Failure Registry to serve as crucial data bank June 1, 2019/**Pune Mirror**

June 15, 2019/Times of India

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: A National Heart Failure Registry is being prepared to create a data bank on heart diseases across the country. Funded by **Indian Council of Medical Research**, the idea is to collate data on 10,000 patients in one year. Already 5,000 patients have been listed in the registry. The Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology here is among the nodal agencies that is preparing the registry. "The registry work began in January and we intend to study the impact of the heart diseases with this registry. In the first 1,000 cases 'enrolled' in the registry, it has been found that ischemic heart disease is the highest among various forms of heart diseases in the country. Its mortality rate is higher compared to that of cancer," said Dr S Harikrishnan, national principal investigator and coordinator of National Heart Failure Registry. As of now, there is no data bank on heart diseases at the national level. For the registry, 52 hospitals have been selected across the country from which details of 200 heart patients each will be collected and listed. In Kerala, four hospitals have been selected to be part of the registry. "After the registry is complete we would like to use it for research purposes. The economic impact will be the second stage of study conducted once the registry is ready. We want to know how costly the treatment is for the people and whether treatment costs are pulling down people into poverty," said Harikrishnan, a professor of cardiology at Sree Chitra Tirunal.

Free dialysis service to begin in 18 hospitals in Assam

June 15, 2019/ Guwahati Plus

The service will be introduced from this month in a total of eight district hospitals as part of the first phase. In a relief to kidney patients, the Assam government is set to start free dialysis facility in as many as 18 government hospitals, announced state health & family welfare minister Himanta Biswa Sarma recently. The service is being introduced as part of the Pradhan Mantri National Dialysis Programme under the National Health Mission. The Assam government signed an agreement with Apollo Hospitals, Chennai on February 5 under the public-private partnership mode to implement this programme for a period of five years. In the first phase, the free service will be started in eight hospitals including SMK Civil Hospital in Nalbari, Mangaldoi Civil Hospital in Darrang district, Tezpur Medical College & Hospital and Kanaklata Civil Hospital in Sonitpur district, LGB Civil Hospital in Tinsukia, Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed Medical College in Barpeta, Morigaon Civil Hospital, and Bongaigaon District Hospital. Apollo Hospitals will be paid Rs 1,296 for each dialysis session in the first year by the government and the rate will increase by 8 per cent after each year till the completion of the contract. In the second phase, free dialysis service will be extended to Sivasagar Civil Hospital, BP Civil Nagaon, North Lakhimpur Civil Hospital, and civil hospitals of Dhemaji, Diphu, Dhubri and Goalpara by the second week of July. Additionally, Jorhat Medical College, Karimganj and Golaghat civil hospitals will be covered in the last phase, added Sarma. The health minister further mentioned that the state has seen a rise in patients suffering kidney-related ailments. He added that Assam

government will seek the help of **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** to conduct a survey in the state to find out if the use of harmful fertilizers and pesticides is causing the rise of such diseases in the state. Further, a total of 105 Hemo-Dialysis machines for Pradhan Mantri National Dialysis Programme have been allocated for all 18 centres in Assam. The minister added that till now, 45 machines have been installed across eight hospitals for the first phase.



Digital Therapeutics Market is set to boom with \$8,941.1 Million by 2025 with Top Players – CANARY HEALTH, Noom, 2Morrow Livongo Health, Proteus Digital Health, WellDoc, Fitbit, Omada Health, and MANGO HEALTH

June 15, 2019/ Honest Version

Digital therapeutics help in reducing the costs associated with chronic diseases, by helping an individual or an insurance provider to keep a track of one's health status as well as track it with the help of digital means. 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. 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.

'Drinking buttermilk improves cardiovascular health'

June 16, 2019/ The Hindu BusinessLine

A team of French nutrition researchers explored the beneficial effects of specific molecules found in buttermilk and have prescribed the fermented dairy drink for a healthy heart. The research appeared in the latest issue of Gut, a journal published by the British Medical Journal, recently found that certain bio molecules present in buttermilk and other fermented dairy products can reduce the build-up of cholesterol and other harmful blood lipids which push a person towards developing a heart attack. "We cannot rule out that the daily consumption of regular buttermilk for longer periods may also contribute to maintain a good blood lipid profile in countries where liquid buttermilk is traditionally consumed, this would now be important to verify," Michalski told BusinessLine. The scientists' complementary studies suggested that certain milk polar lipids and cholesterol

may form a complex in the small intestine that cannot be absorbed by the gut and is ultimately excreted in the stool. The scientists felt that these findings could ultimately provide a foundation for new nutritional strategies to reduce cardiovascular risk factors in certain vulnerable populations. A lipid science expert from the National Institute of Nutrition, an **Indian Council of Medical Research** lab in Hyderabad, said that increasing the concentration of milk polar lipids in buttermilk by several folds would be an expensive proposition.



Encephalitis deaths: High-level team deployed to Muzaffarpur to set up state-of-the-art research centre

June 17, 2019/ The New Indian Express

NEW DELHI: Union minister Harsh Vardhan Monday issued directions for immediately sending another high-level team to Bihar's Muzaffarpur to set up a state-of-the-art multi-disciplinary research centre in the wake of deaths of 103 children due to suspected encephalitis. The health minister reviewed the situation at a high-level meeting which was attended by senior officers of the Health Ministry, **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** and AIIMS. Vardhan on Sunday visited the families of the children suffering from suspected acute encephalitis syndrome (AES) in Bihar where doctors' strike has paralysed medical and health services. Vardhan, his deputy Ashwini Kumar Choubey and Bihar Health Minister Mangal Pandey visited the SKMCH. "The Union health minister has directed for another high-level multi-disciplinary team to be sent to Bihar immediately. The team will undertake the necessary groundwork for setting up state-of-the-art multi-disciplinary research centre at Muzaffarpur," the ministry said in a statement. "To establish the cause of the disease, there is an urgent need for an inter-disciplinary, high-quality research team. The research team shall work with the children suffering from AES/JE looking at various aspects including periodicity, cycle of disease, environmental factors and metrological data, besides other factors," Vardhan stated. The interdisciplinary team consists of experts from ICMR, Delhi, NIMHANS, Bangalore, National Institute of Malaria Research and National Institute of Nutrition, Hyderabad, National Institute of Virology (NIV), Pune, National Institute of Epidemiology (NIE) Chennai and AIIMS, Delhi. The members include Dr Jhuma Sankar, Associate Professor in the Department of Pediatrics at AIIMS, Dr V Ravi, Senior Professor of NeuroVirology at NIMHANS and Dr Abhinav Sinha, Scientist in National Institute of Malaria Research.

Fewer Litchis, More Glucose, Ending Hunger: How Steps Taken in Time Could Have Saved 125 Children

June 17, 2019/ News18

Could simple measures like identifying vulnerable families with underweight children, launching an intensive awareness drive on malnourishment and creating awareness on low sugar levels and using the wide network of ashas and anganwadi workers have helped in preventing the deaths of a hundred children in Bihar's Muzaffarpur? Senior officials of the health ministry in New Delhi believe so. A senior official who has been privy to the ground situation in Muzaffarpur has told News18 that these are simple but very doable measures to ensure that children,

the vulnerable lot, are not in a state of a seizure and in their death beds when brought to hospitals. At the time of filing this report, approximately 125 children have been reported dead in Muzaffarpur. The cause has been identified as the dreaded Acute Encephalitis Syndrome (AES). Though doctors confirm that there could be more than just one reason for the AES outbreak the region, experts are banking on findings of the disease published in the British medical journal, Lancet. The studies carried out in 2013 by the National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) in India and US-CDC, for the first time, had drawn a connection between the consumption of litchis and AES. The investigation suggested an ‘outbreak of acute encephalopathy in Muzaffarpur associated with both hypoglycin A and MCPG toxicity’. In simple terms, hypoglycemia or low blood sugar in children is attributed to poor nutrition, sleeping hungry and toxicity referring to methylene cyclopropyl-glycine (MCPG), a chemical found in litchis that affects the brain due to undernourishment. The Union government has already proposed setting up of an inter disciplinary team consisting of members of the National Centre of Disease Control and **Indian Council of Medical Research** and representatives of the Ministry of Science and Technology to study the underlying causes of the disease and why acute encephalitis syndrome raises its ugly head sporadically in Muzaffarpur, the biggest litchi producer in India.

Vapes and E-Cigarettes Could Soon Be Classified as ‘Drugs’ in India

June 17, 2019/ VICE

Slip into the smoking room of your city’s most popular bar or restaurant and you’ll instantly spot at least one person pulling on a compact metallic device with a tiny blinking light, exhaling concentrated clouds of smoke without going back to their table smelling like an ashtray. A device that heats a nicotine-infused liquid and lets you inhale its vapour, vaping is what all the cool kids seem to be doing in a country of over 100 million smokers. It simulates the smoking experience without the tar and other carcinogenic byproducts and has thus always been touted as a healthier alternative to your post-lunch Marlboro Lights. But just as vape manufacturers and e-cigarette sellers were riding on a high, the government seems determined that they go down. The proposal states that, “After revisiting its earlier deliberations, the Drugs Consultative Committee has recommended that since ENDS and related products are used as a tobacco cessation product and function for nicotine delivery, these devices fall under the definition of ‘drug’ as defined under Section 3(b) of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940.” This move comes highly recommended by the **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** that has recommended a “complete ban” on ENDS, saying such devices become a gateway to smoking and can get a non-smoker addicted to nicotine. 12 states, from Maharashtra to Karnataka to Himachal Pradesh, have already banned their sale months ago, while Haryana and Odisha plan to hop onto the ban-wagon.

[23-yr-old Nipah patient free from virus, soon to be discharged: Doctor](#)

June 18, 2019/ DNA India



In 15 days of being diagnosed with the Nipah virus, the 23-year-old engineering student is looking forward to being discharged from the hospital. Last week, he was moved out of the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) after his health improved. He is now being treated in the general ward. His latest test reports revealed he is free from the virus and is improving. He was tested positive for Nipah virus on June 3 and was kept in an isolated ward at a private hospital in Kochi. Speaking about the precautionary measures for the patient after getting discharged from the hospital, Dr Anup Warriar, a consultant on infectious diseases and infection control from Aster Medcity Hospital and one of the doctors attending to the Nipah patient, said, "He will be kept under close observation for at least one or two months. We will be looking at the improvement of his neurological state and getting back to normal daily activities. The Government will also monitor if he requires any further testing for the virus in the future." Other samples taken by the National Institutions of Virology (NIV) are being tested. "That apart, the NIV scientists have also collected samples from bats. By the end of this week, we will know about reports related to those samples." Around 40 to 45 various government agencies are involved in investigating the Nipah virus outbreak in Kerala. The 40-departments-team includes members from the National Institute of Virology (NIV) Pune, **Indian Council of Medical Research**, bat surveillance teams, and the forest department.

[NatureFresh Acti Heart focuses on complete heart health with new #PooraKhayaal campaign](#)

June 18, 2019/ Exchange4Media

NatureFresh™ Acti Heart, the new extension of Cargill's oils business in India's home-grown brand, NatureFresh™, has unveiled its first campaign "#PooraKhayaal". Positioned as an oil brand that gives complete heart care, NatureFresh™ Acti Heart aims at building awareness and educating people on the many heart ailments that exist today. The narrative of the campaign hinges on the premise that there are more than one causes for heart ailments, and they are not restricted to any particular age, gender, or fitness level. The campaign persuades consumers to question their current cooking oil choice - move beyond 'adha adhura' or incomplete information and ensure they have 'poora' or complete information while making an educated decision on their oil purchase. This thought-provoking campaign features three films portraying varied scenarios featuring a friend, a mother, and a wife. The three montages convey that there are diverse reasons for heart problems such as inflammation, unhealthy lifestyle, high cholesterol, etc., all of which impacts the heart's health, either directly or indirectly. Consumers' current cooking oil does not tackle all these aspects and hence the need for taking complete care or #PooraKhayaal of their heart. NatureFresh™ Acti Heart, powered by the 5 warriors - is rich in Omega 3, has high MUFA, an ideal omega 6: omega 3 ratio along with the presence of Vitamin A, D, E and anti-oxidants like Oryzanol, is hence, the ideal choice for heart health. NatureFresh™ Acti Heart has also been accredited by the **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** for having the ideal Omega 6 to Omega 3 ratio, reiterating it being healthy oil for consumers. Its high smoking point makes it ideal for all types of Indian cooking - sautéing as well as frying. Hence, NatureFresh™ Acti Heart empowers consumers by promising 'adha adhura nahi, poora khayaal' of their heart.

[Digital Therapeutics Market to Witness Huge Growth from 2018-2025 and Focusing on Top Key Players – Propeller Health , CANARY HEALTH , Noom, , 2Morrow , Livongo Health , Proteus Digital Health](#)



June 17, 2019/ Honest Version

The global digital therapeutics market is expected to reach US\$ 8,941.1 Mn by 2025 from US\$ 1, Diabetes, Cardiovascular Diseases, Central Nervous System (CNS) Disease, Respiratory Diseases, Smoking Cessation, Musculoskeletal Diseases, Others 3.2 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. The patients segment is expected to be the largest and fastest growing segment in the coming years. The increasing prevalence of diabetes helps to drive the market. Moreover, rise in the number of cases of dementia and Alzheimer's disease also help to upsurge the demand for digital therapeutics in the forecast period. The digital therapeutics market was estimated through extensive primary and secondary sources that includes a vast array of government authorized websites such as Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Habib Medical Group (HMG), **Indian Council Of Medical Research (ICMR)**, International Diabetes Federation (IDF), World Health Organization (WHO) and others.

[Centre to form permanent expert group to tackle AES outbreak in Bihar](#)

June 18, 2019/ The Hindu BusinessLine

In the light of the massive outbreak of Acute Encephalitis Syndrome (AES) in Bihar, Union Health Ministry has called for constituting a permanent multi-disciplinary group of experts at the Centre to review and tackle the situation. The group shall draw experts from the National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC), All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)**, World Health Organisation (WHO), Centre for Disease Control (CDC), Indian Association of Paediatrics (IAP), Ministry of Science & Technology, Ministry of Women and Child Development and also include experts in the field of meteorology, nutrition, agricultural science. The group constituted at the national level will be anchored in the Health Ministry, according to an official release. "The group should meet regularly during the year to monitor the recommendations of the two central expert teams that are presently stationed in Muzaffarpur and deliberate upon their findings and also any suggestions received from other experts in the matter", said the release quoting Union Health Minister Harshvardhan. "This group shall formulate recommendations for measures to be taken up in case of an outbreak and for immediate control, in addition to a long-term understanding about its causes so as to prevent the cases," he added.

HC directs clinic to continue stem cell treatment

June 18, 2019/ Business Standard



In an interim relief, the Delhi High Court has directed a private clinic to continue with the stem cell treatment being provided to the patients till its further orders. The court's interim direction came while hearing various petitions challenging the Centre's decision to put stem cell therapy in the category of new drugs. The petitioners were being provided stem cell treatment in Nutech Mediworld Clinic in Green Park here. A Division Bench of justices Anu Malhotra and Talwant Singh said that all details of treatment being provided to the petitioners by the clinic be placed on record with an affidavit. The court has sought the response of Centre and **Indian Council of Medical Research** to file reply on the petition and listed the matter for September 4 for further hearing. The court has directed authorities concerned to examine whether the products being administered to the petitioners, prima facie, fall within the scope of the expression 'new drugs' as defined under Rule 2(1) (w) of New Drugs and Clinical Trial Rules, 2019 and communicate the view to the petitioners and the said clinic. On account of the Centre's fresh notification on 'New Drugs and Clinical Rule 2019', some medications used for the treatment would fall under the definition of 'new drug' and require approval from the authority concerned. The clinic, which is administering the medicine, cannot function under the new rules until the licence is duly obtained.

India May Classify Vapes & E-Cigarettes As 'Drug' & Using Your Fancy Equipment Could be Illegal

June 18, 2019/ India Times

For users of vapes, also known as e-cigarettes, there's bad news. The fancy-looking, battery-powered device that vapourises a liquid solution, simulating a feeling of smoking without tar and other carcinogenic byproducts, could soon be categorised as a 'drug' in India. The compact metallic device with a tiny blinking light is one the fanciest accessories for smokers. Most cool kids in the country are seen doing this in markets and offices. Since they have been tipped as healthier alternative to cigarettes, the demand is ever-rising. According to a report by The Times of India, The Drugs Technical Advisory Board of India has approved a proposal to regulate Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems (or ENDS) by classifying them as "drugs" and cancelling them from being sold in the country. The recommendations by **Indian Council Of Medical Research (ICMR)** as well as observations from the expert committee constituted by the health ministry to examine the issue. 12 states, from Maharashtra to Karnataka to Himachal Pradesh, have already banned their sale months ago, while Haryana and Odisha could soon join the bandwagon.

Health Ministry to set expert's group to look into AES

June 18, 2019/ Udaipur Kiran



As Bihar grapples with Acute Encephalitis Syndrome that has claimed 106 lives so far, Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan Tuesday decided to constitute a permanent multi-disciplinary group of experts at the Centre to monitor and formulate measures to be taken up in the event of such an outbreak. The central group will comprise experts from the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC), Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), World Health Organisation (WHO), Ministry of Science and Technology and Ministry of Women and Child Development along with experts of meteorology, nutrition and agricultural science. Vardhan also chaired a meeting of experts who deliberated upon the factors causing high child mortality in the reported Acute Encephalitis Syndrome/Japanese Encephalitis (AES/JE) cases in Muzaffarpur district of Bihar and the immediate measures to be taken up to prevent them. "We discussed the socio-economic profile of the households which have reported such cases, their nutrition profiles, ongoing heatwave, reported a high percentage of hypoglycemia in children who have died, prevailing health infrastructure in the district and other factors that could significantly be considered in these cases," the minister said. Senior officers from the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Women and Child Development, experts from AIIMS, NCDC, **ICMR**, Indian Academy of Pediatrics (IAP), WHO and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) were present at the meeting. Measures to further strengthen the health infrastructure, need for an aggressive awareness campaign to prevent these cases and strengthening the research base to provide sound knowledge on the causes of mortality, active collaboration between state and central governments with experts and researchers were some of the other crucial discussion points.

Can human embryonic stem cells be used for treatment asks Delhi HC

June 19, 2019/ Oneindia

The Delhi High Court has sought the stand of the **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** on whether human embryonic stem cells were permitted to be used for treating various degenerative diseases. A vacation bench of justices Anu Malhotra and Talwant Singh called upon the ICMR to assist the court after noting that according to the website of the medical research body, only stem cells from bone marrow were permitted for treatment. The order came on several pleas moved by patients challenging the Centre's decision to put stem cell therapy in the category of 'new drugs', necessitating in the need for a permission from a central licensing authority to provide the treatment. The patients moved the court as city-based clinic Nutech Mediworld, where they had been getting the human embryonic stem cell therapy, refused to continue providing the treatment on the grounds that it did not have the licence as required under the New Drugs and Clinical Trial Rules of 2019.

[More than 100 children die in India in encephalitis outbreak](#)

June 19, 2019/ The Hilltop Monitor



In the meantime, hordes of people gathered outside the hospital and started shouting slogans like "Nitish Kumar go back", angry over the chief minister choosing to visit the city only after the number of casualties had crossed the three-digit mark. Can Lychees Be Poisonous? Villagers crowded outside Sri Krishna Medical College Hospital in Muzaffarpur, where some of the sick children are being treated, to protest a visit by Bihar's chief minister, whom they accused of only coming to the area after the death toll passed 100. Kumar has been in power since 2005 and encephalitis-related deaths are not new to Bihar. "The ambulance facility will be free of cost". Schools will reportedly remain closed until June 22 as a precautionary measure to help manage and contain the crisis. Encephalitis, called "Chamki" fever in Hindi, is a viral disease, which causes mild flu-like symptoms such as high fever, convulsions and headaches and has been claiming lives in the district for the past few weeks. "I was not sleeping", he said. Harsh Vardhan, Indian Union Health Minister, said, "To establish the cause of the disease, there is urgent need for an inter disciplinary, high quality research team". The health minister reviewed the situation at a high-level meeting which was attended by senior officers of the Health Ministry, **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** and AIIMS. Following his visit, Dr. Vardhan assured the aggrieved children and their families that the necessary assistance and care will be provided.

[hypopharyngeal cancer treatment market 2018 global analysis, industry size, share leaders, current status by major key vendors and trends by forecast to 2026](#)

June 19, 2019/ Veteran's Vista

Hypopharyngeal cancer is the malignant tumor initiated in the cells of hypopharynx. Malignant cell of the hypopharyngeal cancer can metastasis into cervical lymph nodes, pharyngeal muscles, cranial nerves, larynx, thyroid, esophagus, lungs, liver or bone leading to secondary cancer. Hypopharyngeal cancer can be differentiated in the stages of cancer based on the size of the tumor. The early stages of hypopharyngeal cancer are asymptomatic whereas in late stages symptoms like sore throat, difficulty in swallowing, painful swallowing, weight loss or blood in mucus and saliva can be visible. Hypopharyngeal cancer can be diagnosed through X-ray, ultrasound, panendoscopy, biopsy, CT scan, MRI, PET scan or PET-CT scan. Treatment for hypopharyngeal cancer includes surgeries like transoral robotic surgery (TORS) and transoral videolaryngoscopic surgery or TOVS, chemotherapy and chemoradiotherapy, and targeted therapy. Researchers are also looking for more ways like transplantation and tissue grafting to rebuild cells post- surgery. Low survival rate of hypopharyngeal cancer is raising the demand of research and development in this field. According to American Cancer Society in 2017, the estimated survival rate of this type of cancer is below average in comparison to other cancers i.e Stage I (53%), Stage II (39%), Stage III (36%) and Stage IV (24%) which is below 50%. Governmental organization are also sponsoring the research and development for cancer studies to bring better treatment for hypopharyngeal cancer treatment market and increase its survival rate. For instance, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute sponsored research study for drug BKM120 (buparlisib) for indication of hypopharyngeal cancer, in October, 2014. Such new drug trials will augment the growth of hypopharyngeal cancer treatment market. Geographically, the hypopharyngeal cancer treatment market is

segmented into North America, Latin America, Europe, Middle East, Asia Pacific and Africa. North America is expected to be dominant market over the forecast period owing to increasing research and developmental activities by locally present pharmaceutical companies. However, Asia Pacific is expected to be fastest growing hypopharyngeal cancer treatment market due to high incidence of hypopharyngeal cancer in the region. For example, According to **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** 2013, the incidence of hypopharyngeal cancer is relatively higher among males in India i.e. approximately 11% against 1% worldwide.



[Internet wave in India The good, the bad and the ugly side to it](#)

June 19, 2019/ Media India Group

Two years back Ujwala Debnath (57) struggled to answer a keypad phone. “It was very confusing. I used to panic and forget which one was pressed for receiving and which one was used for disconnecting calls.” However, today Debnath can order saris for herself, is quite an active user of Facebook and can even make video calls. “My grandson gifted me an android phone six months back and taught me how to use it. Since then most of my time is occupied on the phone,” she adds. Like nearly 500 million people in India, Debnath too is shaping the future of internet in the country. India has seen explosive growth in internet users, stimulated by the initiatives of big tech giants to tap vast new markets with an aim to modernise the country’s infrastructure. The Indian government too has been taking several hard hitting initiatives since the past decade to promote digital literacy and ensuring that internet access is available in every home. India’s internet users expected to register double digit growth to reach 627 million in 2019, driven by rapid internet growth in rural areas, according to market research agency Kantar IMRB. “Increased availability of bandwidth, cheap data plans and increased awareness driven by government programmes seem to have rapidly bridged the digital gap between urban and rural India. Consequently, the penetration in rural India has increased from 9 pc in 2015 to 25 pc in 2018,” the report added. India has proved to be a critical market for Facebook’s messaging app WhatsApp, as it has more than 200 million users here, more than any other country. Similarly, Google has helped set up free WiFi services at over 400 train stations across India, and also runs a digital literacy programme to teach rural Indian women how to use the internet. According to a 2017 report by IAMAI and IMRB International in 2017, the overall internet penetration in India is currently pegged at 31 pc. While India is still to conduct a national study on internet addiction, an extensive study funded by the **Indian Council of Medical Research** and conducted by the country’s premier mental health facility, National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences and titled ‘Behavioral addiction in the community: an exploration’, gives a glimpse into the problem. Conducted in 2012 over 15 months, with a sample size of 2,755 respondents in Bengaluru, it revealed that 4.1 pc of the respondents were addicted to their cell phones and that mood disturbance and anxiety showed a “positive correlation” with smartphone and internet addiction. Besides social media, online gaming continued to woo audiences. There are about 2.4 billion interactive game players in the world right now. That is an increase of six percent in a year.

[Bihar's Encephalitis crisis reveals dismal medical infrastructure](#)

June 19, 2019/ Sify News



Bihar is the midst of a health crisis. Since June 5, 113 people have died due to Acute Encephalitis Syndrome (AES). The disease is marked by swelling of the brain, high fever, seizures, coma and death. Malnourished children are often the worst affected. Since the outbreak began earlier this month, Chief Minister Nitish Kumar made his first visit to a hospital at Muzaffarpur on Tuesday. At this particular hospital 91 children have died and currently more than 300 are in treatment for the disease. Outside the hospital, he was met with angry protestors and hecklers angry with inaction from the government. The Times of India editorial sums up the situation in the state –“While the quality of healthcare needs improving all over the country, the confluence of weaknesses in Bihar – from malnutrition to poor hygiene and deteriorating law and order – is proving fatal. Nitish needs to haul up the standard of governance, particularly healthcare.” This happening in one of the country’s poorest states makes it harder for those affected to receive treatment. In India, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh are the worst affected. According to the National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme, in 2018, more than 600 people died across the country due to AES with more than 10,000 cases detected. In light of the recent deaths, the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) Monday sent notices to the Union Health Ministry and the Bihar government seeking a detailed report on the situation. Reacting to the crisis in Bihar, the centre has stepped in. The Union Health Ministry has called for the formation of a permanent multi-disciplinary group to review and tackle the crisis. This group will constitute experts from the National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC), All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)**, World Health Organisation (WHO) among others.

[Infection Surveillance Solutions Market Development History with Top Players RL Solutions, Wolters Kluwer N.V., ICNet, Baxter International, Atlas Medical Software](#)

June 19, 2019/ openPR

Infection surveillance solutions are the programs, which helps in effective management of the Healthcare-Acquired Infections (HAIs) in healthcare facilities. Pneumonia, gastrointestinal illness, urinary tract infections, primary bloodstream infections, and infection related to some surgery are the few major HAIs. High incidences of HAIs is the major concern for government across the globe, and hence, various governments have outlined policies to effectively manage and reduce incidences of HAIs. In 1994, Public Health Agency of Canada's Centre for Communicable Diseases and Infection Control (CCDIC) and the National Microbiology Laboratory (NML) collaborated and launched the Canadian Nosocomial Infection Surveillance Program (CNISP) across the Canada. The objective of CNISP was to control the healthcare-associated infections (HAIs) throughout the Canada. Furthermore, between 2013 and 2014 **Indian Council of Medical Research** and the National Centre for Disease Control started Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) Surveillance Networks. Moreover, the pharmaceutical companies such as Pfizer, Inc. has also shown interest in dealing with antimicrobial resistance. In January 2018, Pfizer, Inc. partnered with Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) to combat antimicrobial resistance. AMR stewardship programs for nursing homes, scaling up of the AMR surveillance network will be the few key steps implemented by this partnership. ncreasing

prevalence of Healthcare-Acquired Infections (HAIs) is expected to be the major driver for growth of the global infection surveillance solutions market. For instance, according to a HAI Prevalence Survey launched by Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in 2014, an estimated around 722,000 cases of HAIs were found in the U.S. acute care hospitals and about 75,000 patients with HAIs died during their hospitalizations in 2011. Moreover, launch of novel and updated version of infection surveillance solutions is expected to fuel the growth of global infection surveillance solutions market in near future. For instance, in 2015, Wolters Kluwer N.V. launched its updated version of Senti7 electronic surveillance solution.



Child deaths by encephalitis continue in Bihar as toll touches 113; doctors, officials clueless

June 19, 2019/ The New Indian Express

PATNA: Children have been dying in Bihar's Muzaffarpur and neighbouring districts due to Acute Encephalitis Syndrome (AES) for over a fortnight, but doctors and health officials are still in dark about the exact nature of the disease and precise cause of deaths. The state and central governments are also clueless on the matter. As per official figures, 113 children have died due to AES in Muzaffarpur and neighbouring districts, so far. Bihar Health Department Principal Secretary Sanjay Kumar said here that of the total 113 deaths, 91 had died state-run Sri Krishna Medical College and Hospital (SKMCH), 16 in the private Kejriwal hospital both in Muzaffarpur, two in the Nalanda Medical College and Hospital in Patna, and 4 in other districts. Taking this into consideration, Harsh Vardhan stressed the need for research on AES and setting up of a state-of-the-art, multidisciplinary research unit in Muzaffarpur in collaboration with the **Indian Council of Medical Research**, the National Centre for Disease Control and AIIMS Patna. He said there should be research to identify the disease that still not identified and for it research facility should be developed in Muzaffarpur will take support from Atlanta based Centre for Disease Control and WHO for research in order to ascertain the causative factor of the disease. After Chief Minister Nitish Kumar visited Muzaffarpur on Tuesday, the government has commissioned a survey in blocks and villages which reported high death toll to study the socio-economic profiles of the affected families and their living conditions. A team of experts sent by the Central government has expressed dissatisfaction over the weak health infrastructure and poor hospital facilities.

Neurologist gets prestigious fellowship

June 19, 2019/ The Hindu

V. Nagarjan, Senior Consultant Neurologist of Madurai and Chairman of the Neuroscience Task Force, **Indian Council of Medical Research**, received the Fellowship of the Royal College of Physicians of London (FRCP) at Glasgow, United Kingdom, recently. Dr. Nagarajan is involved in the treatment of diseases of the brain, like stroke, dementia, and his challenging work has been with ADHD children and autism. He has been associated with the National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research in developing drugs for degenerative disorders.

Advanced Medical Stopcock Market Outlook 2027: Top Companies, Trends and Future Prospects Details for Business Development



June 19, 2019/ Honest Version

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. 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. The elderly people are more likely to have cancer, cardiovascular diseases, organ failure, diabetes and more. With increase in the number of geriatric population, the prevalence of the chronic diseases has increased. The treatment procedures become more complicated in the elder population than younger people, and the effect of the disease on quality of life is particularly deep in this population.

Health ministry to set up permanent multi-disciplinary group to look into encephalitis cases

June 19, 2019/ India Today

As Bihar grapples with acute encephalitis syndrome (AES) that has claimed 112 lives so far, Union Health Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan decided to constitute a permanent multi-disciplinary group of experts at the Centre to monitor and formulate measures to be taken up in the event of such an outbreak. The central group will comprise of experts from the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC), **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)**, World Health Organisation (WHO), Ministry of Science and Technology and Ministry of Women and Child Development along with experts of meteorology, nutrition and agricultural science. Harsh Vardhan also chaired a meeting of experts who deliberated upon the factors causing high child mortality in the reported acute encephalitis syndrome/Japanese encephalitis (AES/JE) cases in Muzaffarpur district of Bihar and the immediate measures to be taken up to prevent them. "We discussed the socio-economic profile of the households which have reported such cases, their nutrition profiles, ongoing heatwave, reported high percentage of hypoglycemia in children who have died, prevailing health infrastructure in the district and other factors that could significantly be considered in these cases," the minister said. Senior officers from the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Women and Child Development, experts from AIIMS, NCDC, ICMR, Indian Academy of Pediatrics (IAP), WHO and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) were present at the meeting. The Health ministry has further deployed five central teams of pediatricians and paramedics to further strengthen management of AES/JE cases in Bihar.

'Hope to nail acute encephalitis syndrome death causes soon'

June 20, 2019/ Times of India

NEW DELHI: Litchi toxins, malnutrition, heatwave or poor health infrastructure - what is causing the encephalitis related child deaths in Bihar's Muzaffarpur? Even as the state government blames hypoglycemia as the cause for most deaths, doctors, public health experts and researchers have raised concerns over the government's failure to contain the rapidly rising death toll from the disease. More than 112 children have died due to acute encephalitis syndrome (AES) in the past fortnight and many more are feared infected in Muzaffarpur and the adjoining districts in Bihar. This has also compelled the Union health ministry to send different teams to probe and ascertain the exact cause, strengthen surveillance and measures in the affected districts. Ten paediatricians (including five senior consultants) and five para-medics from RML Hospital, Safdarjung and Lady Hardinge Medical College are part of the five teams set up by health ministry. The teams also include clinical and public health experts from **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)**, National Institute of Nutrition and UN agencies. "As of now, we do not have much clue about the exact cause of these deaths. However, we are working on several possibilities and are hopeful of zeroing on it in a day or two," a senior official from ICMR told TOI.

Centre's report on Muzaffarpur hospital: 'Paediatric ICU not fit for the term'

June 20, 2019/ Times of India

The central team sent last week to investigate the death of children from AES in Muzaffarpur has given a damning report regarding the arrangements made for treatment, stating that the paediatric ICU of the Sri Krishna Medical College and Hospital (SKMCH) did not meet the criteria to qualify as a paediatric intensive care unit (PICU) and that it was only of the level of a high dependency unit. It pointed out that mortality from AES usually ranges from 6-19% in good centres and that mortality was directly proportional to the quality of care the child received at a health facility. In SKMCH, the data shows, mortality rate has been about 25% this year. The team advised better protocol-based management of AES to bring down mortality, improved use of case monitoring sheets and better prioritising of serious and not-so-serious cases to ensure optimal use of resources. It has also recommended constituting a research team from the National Centre for Disease Control, **Indian Council for Medical Research**, AIIMS Patna, National Institute of Virology, Pune and Rajendra Memorial Research Institute of Medical Sciences, Patna to focus research not only on the children who have been admitted with AES but also others within the same geographical area to understand the risks. On the speculation that there may be a link with lychee, the report said that while earlier studies had inferred that this may be connected to the presence of a specific toxin in the fruit, "the work was not sufficient to prove that the toxin is causative for all cases".

Litchi fruit under scanner over encephalitis deaths in Bihar

June 20, 2019/ The Hilltop Monitor



"A field survey is paramount at this moment", said the superintendent, adding that malnourished children are vulnerable to face the toxins' effect and hence fall ill. Indian authorities said Wednesday that 114 children have died in an encephalitis outbreak this month in eastern Bihar, one of the country's poorest states. Mr. Kumar on June 18 visited the SKMCH hospital, where he faced protests by angry people over the deaths. Vardhan had on Sunday visited the families of the children suffering from suspected AES in Bihar and deployed another high-level multi-disciplinary team at the state. The report observed that nine ventilators were present but not made operational at SKMCH and no ventilators were present in Kejriwal Hospital. The Chief Minister also held a review meeting with the doctors and health officials to take stock of the situation. Fresh deaths due to Acute Encephalitis Syndrome (AES) have been reported in Bihar's Muzaffarpur district, taking the total number of casualties to 113. The Commission also wanted to know about the status of the treatment being provided to the now hospitalised children and the relief provided by the state to the aggrieved families. The districts will be decided in consultation with the state government and can be funded through the National Health Mission (NHM), he said. It has also recommended constituting a research team from the National Centre for Disease Control, **Indian Council for Medical Research**, AIIMS Patna, National Institute of Virology, Pune and Rajendra Memorial Research Institute of Medical Sciences, Patna to focus research not only on the children who have been admitted with AES but also others within the same geographical area to understand the risks. Dr. Shahi said, now there is no shortage of doctors and administration is doing its best to save the lives of children. Sometime back, Gorakhpur district of Uttar Pradesh suffered a lot due to Japanese Encephalitis when about 60 children lost their lives. The first few cases of AES and JE were reported from Muzzafarpur and Gaya, in Bihar, as early as 12 June, prompting the state Health Minister to call on Dr. Anguished by the deaths, a Muzaffarpur resident has filed a petition at a local court against Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, his deputy Sushil Modi, Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan, Minister of State Ashwini Choubey and State Health Minister Mangal Pandey.

Use of human embryonic stem cells for treatment: HC directs ICMR to clarify stand

June 20, 2019/ Medical Dialogues

New Delhi: The Delhi High Court has sought the stand of the **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** on whether human embryonic stem cells were permitted to be used for treating various degenerative diseases. A vacation bench of justices Anu Malhotra and Talwant Singh called upon the ICMR to assist the court after noting that according to the website of the medical research body, only stem cells from bone marrow were permitted for treatment. The order came on several pleas moved by patients challenging the Centre's decision to put stem cell therapy in the category of 'new drugs', necessitating in the need for permission from a central licensing authority to provide the treatment. The patients moved the court as city-based clinic Nutech Mediworld, where they had been getting the human embryonic stem cell therapy, refused to continue providing the treatment on the grounds that it did not have the licence as required under the New Drugs and Clinical Trial Rules of 2019. The bench, as an interim direction, asked the

clinic not to stop the stem cell treatment being provided to the petitioner-patients till further orders. The court, during the proceedings, told the clinic that stem cells from bone marrow was permitted, but it was taking it from embryonic cells. "We do not know what kind of embryos? Where you are getting these embryos from," the bench said, and directed the clinic to place before the court the records of treatment being provided by it using stem cells.



[Eight ALS ambulances deployed to transport AES patients in Bihar: Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan](#)

June 20, 2019/ Zee News

Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan on Thursday said that eight additional Advanced Life Support (ALS) ambulances have been deployed to transport Acute Encephalitis Syndrome (AES) patients in the affected districts of Bihar. He added that the government officials have also started house-to-house active case finding campaign in order to check the outbreak of deadly viral disease. "8 additional Advanced Life Support (ALS) ambulances deployed to transport AES (Acute Encephalitis Syndrome)/JE (Japanese Encephalitis) patients in the affected districts. House to house active case finding campaign started," Harsh Vardhan was quoted as saying by ANI. It is to be noted that the AES has claimed the lives of over 140 children in Bihar, with over 100 children losing their lives at Sri Krishna Medical College & Hospital (SKMCH) in Muzaffarpur alone. The Union Health Minister said that a team of experts from Indian Council of Medical Research has been deployed at SKMCH hospital in order to make the virology lab operational as soon as possible. Harsh Vardhan noted that multi-disciplinary team deployed earlier in Muzaffarpur is reviewing all the case records of AES patients, who were admitted and treated since the outbreak of deadly disease this year. "**ICMR** team of experts has been deployed at SKMCH hospital, Muzaffarpur for making the virology lab operational at the earliest. Multi-disciplinary team deployed earlier is reviewing all the case records of AES patients, admitted and treated in 2019," said Harsh Vardhan.

[Centre starts contact-tracing every AES case in Bihar](#)

June 20, 2019/ Zee News

A deadly break out of Acute Encephalitis Syndrome in Bihar, which has left over a hundred children dead since beginning of June, has pressured the Centre to contact trace every case. The Union Health Ministry, in a press release on Thursday, said that the multi-disciplinary team will collect clinical, nutritional and epidemiological information from AES patients hospitalised since May 18. "Blood, urine and CSF samples will be collected from these patients to rule out a series of infections. The team will also conduct case-control study, by taking household and village controls to reconfirm the role of missing meals and litchi consumption including the quantity," the press statement said. "It is premature to blame litchi consumption as a reason for this season's outbreak. While we have not been able to ascertain the causes of deaths as of now, we should be able to get a better understanding of the causes in two to three days," Chander Shekhar, Additional Director-General, Indian **Council of Medical Research (ICMR)**, told BusinessLine.

Inaction led to lakhs of new leprosy patients

June 20, 2019/ Deccan Herald



A decade of government inaction on the leprosy eradication front has led to surfacing of lakhs of new patients in the last four years, compelling the central government to delay the eradication target date by more than a decade. “Undoubtedly, there were 10 years of laxity in the programme because of which case detection was slow. We are doing well from 2016 onwards and now aims to making India leprosy free by 2030,” Anil Kumar, the deputy director general at the Union Health Ministry's in charge of National Leprosy Elimination Programme told DH. Earlier the phase out target was 2018, but numbers kept piling up, thanks to those ten lax years. In 2017-18, there were 1,26,164 new leprosy cases, which is slightly less than the 2016-17 count of 1,35,485 fresh cases. Bihar, Chhattishgarh, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha and West Bengal are having the maximum number of leprosy patients with Bihar and UP topping the chart. The previous two years 2015-16 and 2014-15 too recorded more than 1.25 lakhs of new leprosy cases as a grim reminder that the battle with one of the world's most stigmatised diseases is far from over in India. The trouble has its genesis in 2005 after India achieved the elimination target. In technical parlance, elimination meant lowering the disease prevalence to less than one person per 10,000 population, but it was misunderstood by many within and outside the government. A petition filed in the Supreme Court by the Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy shows that there are 119 central and state laws in which leprosy can be sighted as a ground to discriminate against a person by law. “Also in our student days, we were trained about leprosy detection during the MBBS programme. Such trainings don't exist anymore after the numbers came down from 60 lakhs in 1982 to 2-3 lakhs in 2005,” said V M Katoch, former director general at the **Indian Council of Medical Research**.

Developed, urbanised districts have high HIV prevalence: Study

June 20, 2019/ The Hindu BusinessLine

With over two million HIV infected individuals, India is home to one-third of the world's HIV population. Although the national level data shows a downward trend, the decline is not uniform across states and districts. A new study has found that underlying factors for the epidemic also vary from region to region, and region-specific strategies may be necessary for HIV control. There is high prevalence of HIV in 63 districts in South and North-east regions of the country, the study has found. Of them, “better developed, urbanised districts with large population size, better socio-economic status of population are more likely to have consistently high HIV prevalence levels.” While planning HIV control strategies, the focus should be on districts which are showing signs of rapid urbanisation and socio-economic development, the study has suggested. The study, among other things, has highlighted that the districts which are rapidly progressing towards urbanization and socio-economic development may see an increase in the number of HIV cases. The study further advocates the need to raise awareness of HIV prevention and use of condoms along with HIV in general. The research team included Dr Sanjay M. Mehendale of **Indian Council of Medical Research**, New Delhi apart from Dr Rajneesh. The research published in the journal Plos One.

7 more children die of AES in Bihar; govt starts survey

June 21, 2019/ The Hindustan Times



Seven more children died to acute encephalitis syndrome (AES) in Bihar on Thursday, taking the total number of such deaths since the beginning of this month to 135 and exposing the crumbling state of health care in some of the country's poorest districts. The Bihar government's handling of the situation has sparked criticism from the public and experts, forcing authorities on Thursday to take new steps to ease a shortage of beds and begin a door-to-door outreach programme to detect potential patients in time in some of the worst-affected areas. The manager of the main government hospital in Muzaffarpur, the epicentre of the crisis, said that a prisoners' ward has been emptied out and turned into a makeshift Intensive Care Unit (ICU). "We have converted this ward into an ICU and shifted the prisoners' ward. We have done this to accommodate more children. At least 19 more beds will be added here, which will increase the capacity. This ward will become functional shortly," said the manager of the main government-run Shri Krishna Medical College and Hospital (SKMCH) in Muzaffarpur, according to ANI. A team of experts from the **Indian Council of Medical Research** are in the process of setting up a virology lab at SKMCH. Doctors have not yet been able to determine the cause of the AES outbreak, which has been reported almost entirely in children. A team from the Union government has been dispatched to the affected regions. AES (the swelling of brain membrane) can be caused by a raft of factors, including toxins in unripe litchis — Muzaffarpur is the litchi hub of the state — viruses, bacteria, fungi, parasites, and chemical poisons.

V-Valley pollution: KSPCB takes up one more study

June 21, 2019/ The New Indian Express

BENGALURU: The highly-polluted Vrishabhavathi valley (V-Valley) off Mysore Road in West Bengaluru, has the authorities puzzled. Despite three studies undertaken to ascertain the pollution levels in the waters at V-Valley, Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) has taken up another study to ascertain the level. This time, the Board has entrusted the work with Regional Occupational Health Centre (ROHC) (Southern), Bengaluru, which comes under the **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)**-National Institute of Occupational Health, Ahmedabad. This also means that improving the condition of V-Valley and nearby areas will take longer. People will have to continue to bear the stench and deal with piled-up garbage around the valley for a longer time. "Many studies have been undertaken by agencies, including KSPCB, but we are not sure of the data because each report has different findings. So, now we have decided to give the work to ROHC, to conduct the study and pollution in it. Since ROHC is a Central government body, the findings will be more accurate," said a senior KSPCB official. The valley is crucial as it supports 35 lakes in West Bengaluru. V-Valley is a tributary of Arkavathy river, which finally flows into Cauvery river, covering 97 sqkm and carrying 2,300 cubic metres of domestic, urban and industrial waste. According to KSPCB, as on February 2019, 3,304 industries were inspected in V-Valley catchment. KSPCB identified 889 industries for action and issued closure notices to 241. According to BBMP, three sewage treatment plants (STPs) were constructed in the Valley and handed over to BWSSB for maintenance. They are also the oldest STPs in the valley.

With regards,

Syed Adil Shamim Andrabi
Information Interface Officer/PRO
Indian Council of Medical Research-
Department of Health Research
Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
proicmr@gmail.com, syed.adil@icmr.gov.in
Ext. 286, Phone. 26589130