



INDIAN COUNCIL OF MEDICAL RESEARCH

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

Media report (28th December 2019 to 10th January 2020)
(ICMR IN NEWS)

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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 report (ICMR IN NEWS dated 28th December 2019 to 10th January 2020) includes the mention Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) in 23 news papers including top news papers such as Times of India, , Hindustan Times, The Indian Express 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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One in seven Indians affected by mental health issues

December 28, 2019/Health Issue India

In India, one in seven suffered from mental illness between 1990 to 2017, new large scale state-wise study reveals

December 29, 2019/First Post

AIIMS conducts annual screening of about 400 people with Type-1 diabetes

December 29, 2019/Sify News

Mission Delhi bike ambulances to cover 78 sq km around AIIMS

December 30, 2019/Drug Today Medical Times

Reach of mobile emergency care to heart attack patients in Delhi extended

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Union health ministry flagship project Mission Delhi extended up to 78 sq km around AIIMS

December 31, 2019/Pharmabiz.com

ICMR-AIIMS extends Mission Delhi initiative

January 2, 2020/BSI

India leaves China way behind in births on Jan 1: Unicef

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Dr Harsh Vardhan inaugurates "Pride of India Expo"

January 3, 2020/BSI

"Hike tax on processed food with high salt, sugar content"

January 3, 2020/Outlook India

Overweight, obesity also exist in low, middle income nations: WHO Chief Scientist

January 3, 2020/Yahoo News

Research to be conducted on Cancer risk factors: Dr Rajo

January 3, 2020/The Sangai Express

Need more laws to deal with antimicrobial resistance

January 4, 2020/The Week

'Hike tax on processed food with high salt, sugar content'

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Women in metro cities consume higher quantities of added sugar than men: Survey

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Experts to decide on inclusion and exclusion of antibiotics from NLEM today

January 9, 2020/The Economics Times

Infant Deaths Not One Hospital's Problem. Here's Why Infants Continue To Die Across India

January 9, 2020/India Spend

Cervical Cancer Awareness Month – CAPED Trust India offers screenings and awareness sessions in and around New Delhi

January 9, 2020/Indian Education Diary

NatureFresh Acti Heart asks consumers to #StartAHeartResolution

January 10, 2020/Best Media Info

One in seven Indians affected by mental health issues

December 28, 2019/Health Issue India

One in seven Indians are affected by mental health conditions, according to a recent study conducted by the Indian Council of Medical Research. The study found that roughly 197 million persons were affected by mental disorders in 2017. The conditions surveyed included depression, anxiety disorders, schizophrenia, bipolar disorders, idiopathic developmental intellectual disability, conduct disorders, and autism. Depression and anxiety disorders were the most common conditions. In total, 45.7 million people experienced depressive disorders. Anxiety affected 44.9 million people. The paper – published in Lancet Psychiatry under the title “The burden of mental disorders across the states of India: The Global Burden of Disease Study 1990-2017” allowed comparisons to take place in terms of the disease burden over the course of nearly three decades. With this in mind, the prospects may be grim. It was found that, since the inception of the study period, the overall burden of mental health issues within India has roughly doubled. This could suggest a number of contributing factors that may be leading to worsening psychiatric situations, such as pollution, lifestyle factors such as poor diets or lack of exercise, or social matters such as impoverishment.

In India, one in seven suffered from mental illness between 1990 to 2017, new large scale state-wise study reveals

December 29, 2019/First Post

If it wasn't alarming enough for India to be labelled as the world's 'most depressed country' by WHO; there is further bad news regarding the country's mental health. Between 1990 to 2017 one in seven people from the country have suffered from mental illness ranging from depression, anxiety to severe conditions such as schizophrenia, according to a study. The large scale findings churning from an exhaustive course of meta-analysis of years of Indian research was published by Lancet Psychiatry on Monday. The study titled, The burden of mental disorders across the states of India: the Global Burden of Disease Study, addressed the need for a state-specific prevalence of mental health issues which has been missing from Indian mental health research. While some studies have previously established the distribution of mental disorders in particular areas and states, no study until now has covered all the geographical units including the 29 states and a combined set of union territories. It also underlines the magnitude of mental illnesses and the major factors maintaining them which have not been inclusively covered by research prior to this. Authored by the India State-Level Disease Burden Initiative Mental Disorders Collaborators, the study was approved by the Health Ministry Screening Committee at the **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** and the ethics committee of the Public Health Foundation of India. It addresses a major concern for healthcare reforms in India. The implications of calling attention to major risk factors that are behind the emergence of mental illness is also a hallmark of this research.

[AIIMS conducts annual screening of about 400 people with Type-1 diabetes](#)



December 29, 2019/Sify News

Nearly 400 people with known diabetes (type-1) below the age of 30 years underwent the comprehensive annual screening for their complication due to their health condition at the annual medical camp- 'Diabetes Onset on Youth' organised with the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) on Saturday. The participants included children, teenagers, and young adults till 30 years of age from Delhi-NCR for the annual screening process which is a mandatory part of their clinical practices. Patients were from AIIMS endocrinology department, paediatrics (AIIMS) and Safdarjung Hospital. "The idea for these camp is that all people with diabetes need to undergo a periodic evaluation and annual evaluation which is more detailed and also includes screening for complications associated with diabetes," (Prof) Dr Nikhil Tandon, head of endocrinology and metabolism department at AIIMS told ANI. In 2014, AIIMS started the annual evaluation of people with known diabetes wherein 200 participants got registered and underwent annual health check for the complications associated with the disease. The project is funded by **ICMR**. Investigations like haemoglobin A1c, proteinuria or microalbuminuria in urine, cholesterol, and fats in the blood (lipid profile) and kidney function test were performed on participants. Citing the latest data published in the International Diabetes Federation (IDF), Dr Tandan said that currently, India has a burden of 100,000 people suffering from known diabetes. Patients and attendants were sensitised through nukkad nataks, poster making, and quiz competitions.

[Mission Delhi bike ambulances to cover 78 sq km around AIIMS](#)

December 30, 2019/Drug Today Medical Times

Mission Delhi -- an **Indian Council of Medical Research-AIIMS** initiative to provide care to STEMI Heart Attack patients -- has been extended to 78 sq. Kms around AIIMS Delhi and will now cater to a population of 20-25 lakhs in the National capital, says an ICMR statement.

Launched on April 25, 2019, at AIIMS Delhi as a pilot project and covering about 30 sq kms, the project has tackled 44 cases till date. 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 requires clot buster therapy within 30 minutes.

The motorcycle ambulance system moves easily through traffic jams and offers timely and quality care led by consultants at AIIMS to patients at their residence itself. 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.

Reach of mobile emergency care to heart attack patients in Delhi extended



December 30, 2019/Business Standard

People living within a 5-km radius of the AIIMS can now avail an emergency mobile medical service in case of anyone suffering heart attack or chest pain with the authorities expanding the initiative's reach, officials said.

The facility, a joint initiative of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) and the **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)**, was launched in April and was earlier available within an radius of 3 km. Under 'Mission DELHI' (Delhi Emergency Life Heart-Attack Initiative), a pair of motorcycle-borne trained paramedic nurses are the first responders for treating heart attack patients. The initiative has so far received 44 cases.

"The project has now been extended to 78 sq km around AIIMS, New Delhi and will now cater to a population of 20-25 lakhs in the national capital," Dr Chandni Suvarna, a scientist at AIIMS, said. 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.

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December 30, 2019/The Week

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[Union health ministry flagship project Mission Delhi extended up to 78 sq km around AIIMS](#)



December 31, 2019/Pharmabiz.com

Envisaged to cater to a population of 25 lakhs in the national capital, Mission Delhi, an **Indian Council of Medical Research** - All India Institute of Medical Sciences (ICMR- AIIMS) initiative, has now been extended to 78 sq kms around AIIMS New Delhi. Launched on April 25, 2019 at AIIMS New Delhi on pilot project basis, Mission Delhi is an ICMR-AIIMS initiative started to provide care to STEMI Heart Attack patients covering about 30 sq km. Mission Delhi has received a total of 44 cases till date. 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. 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 or CPR, transmitting ECG to consultant at AIIMS. With bike-ambulances and trained nurses, Mission Delhi focuses on the importance to reach with medical help much faster, timely response and doorstep care saving the heart in time, given the high-density traffic conditions in the city where the movement of four-wheeler ambulances becomes difficult.

[ICMR-AIIMS extends Mission Delhi initiative](#)

January 2, 2020/BSI

Mission Delhi is an **ICMR**-AIIMS initiative to provide care to STEMI Heart Attack patients, launched 25th April 2019 at AIIMS New Delhi as pilot project and covering about 30 sq kms. As a Pilot Project Mission Delhi has received 44 cases till date.

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[India leaves China way behind in births on Jan 1: Unicef](#)

January 2, 2020/Hindustan Times



On New Year's day, January 1, an estimated 67,385 babies were born in India — 17% of the estimated 392,078 babies born in the world that day, according to Unicef. India and seven other countries accounted for at least half of total global births. The other countries are: China (46,299), Nigeria (26,039), Pakistan (6,787), Indonesia (13,020), the United States (10,452), Democratic Republic of Congo (10,247) and Ethiopia (8,493). The United Nations (UN) World Population report released in June last year says India is projected to overtake China as the world's most populous country this decade — by 2027. Each January, UNICEF celebrates babies born on New Year's Day. UNICEF worked with the World Data Lab on these. "The estimates for the number of babies born on January 1, 2020, draw on the latest revision of the UN's World Population Prospects (2019). Building on these datasets, World Data Lab's (WDL) algorithm projects estimates of the number of births for each day by country," the UN agency said. Child mortality is a huge public health concern in India with about 0.76 million babies dying in the neonatal period, and nearly 3.5 million babies being born premature, according to government data. In September last year, The Lancet Child & Adolescent Health, India State-Level Disease Burden Initiative report was released, showing significant progress on the child nutrition front in the country. "Over the past 27 years that have been analysed as part of the study, there has been a two-thirds decline in child mortality rate and what is attributed to malnutrition, but it is still a leading cause of mortality in children, highlighting the fact that a lot more needs to be done," said Dr Lalit Dandona, **Indian Council of Medical Research** distinguished scientist and national chair of population health.

[Dr Harsh Vardhan inaugurates "Pride of India Expo"](#)

January 3, 2020/BSI

Prof. K.S.Rangappa, general president, 107th ISC; Jagdish Patankar, Chairman, MM Activ Sci-Tech Communications, Dr S. Rajendra Prasad, chairman, organising committee, 107th ISC; Ravindra Boratkar, Managing Director, MM Activ Sci-Tech Communications and many other dignitaries were present during the launch.

This Expo has emerged as a unique platform for organizations from government, private and public sector to showcase their achievements in the field of Science and Technology.

India's leading research organizations like Department of Science and Technology (DST), Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)**, Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES), Defence Research Development Organization (DRDO), Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO), National Council of Science Museums (NCSM), Geological Survey of India (GSI), were some of the major exhibitors at the Pride of India Expo. The host state Karnataka was presented with Karnataka State Higher Education (KSHE), Karnataka State Higher Education Council (KSHEC), Department of IT, BT and S&T, Karnataka Tourism Department at the Expo.

The DST pavilion during the expo highlighted significant achievements of the department & its autonomous institutes. The Expo witnessed a large attendance of researchers, academicians, industry professionals as well as students and the general public. The exhibition also served as meaningful interactions between scientific fraternity, academia & entrepreneurs, technology transfers, collaborations in R & D, launch of tech-driven innovative products, concepts, etc.

"Hike tax on processed food with high salt, sugar content"

January 3, 2020/Outlook India



The government should consider taxing food products which are high in sugar, fat and salt so as to encourage people towards a healthier diet, World Health Organisation (WHO) Chief Scientist Soumya Swaminathan said here on Friday. Delivering the first Dr. C. Gopalan Memorial Lecture at the M. S. Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF), she said: "The co-existence of overweight and obesity along with stunting is the new nutrition reality that we need to address urgently." According to her, the new reality is that undernutrition and deficiencies, overweight and obesity are the problems that exist in low and high income countries. Citing data on malnutrition, Swaminathan said about 2.3 billion adults and children are overweight globally, with about 150 million stunted children. The burden of overweight and obesity is growing very rapidly and the rate of undernutrition is coming down which would have long-term negative consequences affecting the future generations, she added. Expressing concern at the cheap and easy availability of ultra-processed foods than the healthy foods, Swaminathan said taxing unhealthy food or making nutrition information labelling mandatory could help. Gopalan, who passed away last year, is known as "Father of Nutrition Research in India" and was former Director General, **Indian Council for Medical Research (ICMR)** as well as Director of the National Institute of Nutrition.

Overweight, obesity also exist in low, middle income nations: WHO Chief Scientist

January 3, 2020/Yahoo News

Overweight and obesity were not confined to higher income countries alone but prevalent in low and middle income nations too, World Health Organisation Chief Scientist Soumya Swaminathan said on Friday.

The co-existence of overweight and obesity along with stunting was a new nutrition reality that needs to be addressed, she said delivering the first Dr C Gopalan Memorial Lecture at M S Swaminathan Research Foundation here.

'We always think that under nutrition and deficiencies are problems of low-income countries and over weight and obesity are the problems of high income countries. But the new reality is these two co-exist in LMIC (low and middle income) countries, communities and also in households, globally', she said.

Globally, there were about 2.3 billion adults and children considered overweight. The burden of over weight and obesity was growing rapidly and the rate of under nutrition was declining, a release quoted her as having said.

She called for strengthening data systems, nutrition surveillance and surveys, decentralised planning and policies and focus on local consumption of diverse diets. The lecture was organised as a mark of tribute to Dr C Gopalan, former Director General of **Indian Council of Medical Research** and known as the 'father of nutrition research in India' who died last year.

Noted agriculture scientist professor M S Swaminathan recalled his association with Gopalan and said 'Dr Gopalan wanted to endorse the impact of India's Nutrition Research in the whole of Asia'.

Research to be conducted on Cancer risk factors: Dr Rajo

January 3, 2020/The Sangai Express



A one day workshop on 'Monitoring survey of Cancer risk factors and health system response in Manipur' was held at State Family Welfare Training Centre in Lamphelpat today. The workshop was organised by Population Based Cancer Registry (PBCR), Department of Pathology, RIMS Imphal in association with Directorate of Health Services Manipur. Speaking to media persons about the workshop, Health Services Director Dr K Rajo conveyed that Cancer, among other non-communicable diseases like Diabetes, Hypertension, Stroke etc., is increasing day by day in the country. Maintaining that Cancer has become a deadly disease, Dr Rajo stated that a research will be taken up by **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** and will be monitored by National Centre for Disease Informatics and Research, Bengaluru. In case of Manipur, trained and eligible staff of PBCR (a pathology department) will go carry out the field work of the research, he added.

Dr Rajo further informed that Cancer is a disease which is likely to be caused by prolonged negligence to health and change in lifestyle like continuous and excessive use of alcohol, tobacco, junk food, lack of nutrients/green leafy and fresh vegetables, lack of movement leading to obesity etc or change in the environment like pollution and smoke. No research has been conducted in the State to figure out how to reduce these risk factors and the upcoming research will help identify the solution to decreasing these factors and subsequently the rate of Cancer cases in the State, Dr Rajo added. Head of Department, Pathology, RIMS Professor Ph Madhubala said that around 1500 cases of Cancer are registered every year.

Need more laws to deal with antimicrobial resistance

January 4, 2020/The Week

Interview/Dr Balram Bhargava, director general, Indian Council of Medical Research

What are the factors driving antimicrobial resistance in India?

Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) can be attributed to the irresponsibility of doctors and the pharmaceutical industry, sanitation issues and inadequate sensitisation on the subject in the media. Irrational prescription of broad-spectrum antibiotics, poor regulation of sales, self-medication and the lack of education and awareness regarding responsible use of antibiotics are all driving forces behind the rise of AMR. Not just in India, we are seeing across several countries that more and more higher-end antibiotics are being used to treat lower-end infections. In India, particularly, even high-end antibiotics can be purchased without a doctor's prescription. The problem lies not only with service providers, but also with patients, who seek instant cure for an ailment, instead of letting the treatment take its due course. Besides, in our country, weather specificities—such as being warm and rainy—allow various microbes to grow, which over time, mutate and become resistant to antibiotics. To prevent infections from these ever-mutating microbes, we need to build our immunity as well.

How is the government dealing with the situation?

Last September, we established the regional anti-microbial resistance hub, developed in collaboration with the United States at the ICMR's National Institute of Cholera and Enteric Diseases (NICED) in Kolkata. The AMR hub will act as a regional resource for well-characterised drug-resistant strains which can be useful for researchers and pharma companies for their research and development of new diagnostics, therapeutics and epidemiological studies.

Since 2017, **ICMR** is running the AMR-stewardship programme (AMSP), which aims to create a culture of prescribing anti-microbials responsibly by creating awareness among doctors and in hospitals. The AMSP also includes guidelines that contain detailed instructions on drug selection, dosage and duration for anti-microbial drugs, especially inside intensive care units. Right now, ICMR provides funding and human resource to support this activity. Hospitals would need to make AMSP an integral part of their routine activities and fund it from their own resources once the ICMR project is over. Currently, 28 hospitals across the country are part of this programme.

'Hike tax on processed food with high salt, sugar content'

January 4, 2020/The Sentinel

The government should consider taxing food products which are high in sugar, fat and salt so as to encourage people towards a healthier diet, World Health Organization (WHO) Chief Scientist Soumya Swaminathan said here on Friday.

Delivering the first Dr. C. Gopalan Memorial Lecture at the M. S. Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF), she said: "The co-existence of overweight and obesity along with stunting is the new nutrition reality that we need to address urgently."

According to her, the new reality is that undernutrition and deficiencies, overweight and obesity are the problems that exist in low and high income countries.

Citing data on malnutrition, Swaminathan said about 2.3 billion adults and children are overweight globally, with about 150 million stunted children.

The burden of overweight and obesity is growing very rapidly and the rate of undernutrition is coming down which would have long-term negative consequences affecting the future generations, she added.

Expressing concern at the cheap and easy availability of ultra-processed foods than the healthy foods, Swaminathan said taxing unhealthy food or making nutrition information labeling mandatory could help.

Gopalan, who passed away last year, is known as 'Father of Nutrition Research in India' and was former Director General, **Indian Council for Medical Research (ICMR)** as well as Director of the National Institute of Nutrition. (IANS)

Women in metro cities consume higher quantities of added sugar than men: Survey



January 6, 2020/The Time of India

Women in metropolitan cities, especially Mumbai, consume higher quantities of added sugar than men, according to a recent survey. The mean intake of added sugar, measured in grams per day, is least in Hyderabad, the findings revealed. The survey, undertaken by the **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** and National Institute of Nutrition (NIN) in Hyderabad, found out that the average daily intake of added sugar in all metro cities was 19.5 grams/ day, lower than the ICMR recommended level of 30 grams/day. It was sponsored by International Life Sciences Institute -India (ILSI-India). The National Nutrition Monitoring Bureau (NNMB) collated the dietary data from 16 major states during 2015-16 and re-coded recipe-wise and metro city-wise to arrive at the conclusions, experts said. The survey shows that population of Mumbai and Ahmedabad with their average intake level of added sugar at 26.3 grams/ day and 25.9 grams/day respectively, has a much higher intake than their counterparts in Delhi (23.2 grams /day), Bengaluru (19.3 grams day), Kolkata (17.1 grams per day) and Chennai (16.1 grams per day), P K Seth, the chairman of ILSA-India, said. For all the states, the average energy intake through added sugar was 5.1 pc. In Mumbai, the energy through added sugar was found at the highest level (6.6 pc) followed by Delhi (6.1pc), Ahmedabad (5.9 pc), Hyderabad (5.4 pc) Bengaluru (4.1 pc), Chennai (3.9 pc) and Kolkata (3.5 pc).

Women in metros consume higher quantities of added sugar than men

January 6, 2020/Business Standard

Women in metro cities, on an average, consume higher quantities of added sugar than their male counterparts. The overall sugar intake of people in Mumbai is the highest among all the metropolitan cities, according to a survey by the **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)**-National Institute of Nutrition (NIN), and sponsored by International Life Sciences Institute-India (ILSI-India). The National Nutrition Monitoring Bureau (NNMB) had collated the dietary data from 16 major states during 2015-16 and re-coded it recipe-wise and metro city-wise to arrive at the conclusions. The findings were released recently. It showed that, in general, women in metro cities consumed 20.2 grams of added sugar per day, while men consumed 18.7 grams per day. Overall, intake of added sugar in metro cities, according to the survey, was lower than the level prescribed by the ICMR at 30 grams per day. The overall intake of added sugar in the metros was 19.5 grams per day. Added sugar was just 5.1 per cent of the total energy intake in cities. Cereals and millets were the most common form of consumption, followed by milk-based recipes. Nutritionists describe added sugar as sugar carbohydrates added to food and beverages during their production. This type of sugar is chemically indistinguishable from naturally occurring sugars, but the term “added sugar” is used to identify sweetened foods. The study showed that housewives consumed the highest quantity of sugar at 21.3 grams per day while professionals had the least at 15.4 grams per day. Labourers also consumed more sugar at 18.3 grams than that by professionals, the study showed. This, the study attributed to greater awareness among professionals to the ill-effects of sugar compared to others. The study also found that in metros, people from low income groups consumed higher quantities of sugar at 19.4 grams per day.

[Women in metro cities have more added sugar than men, reveals survey](#)

January 6, 2020/The Indian Express

Women in metro cities consume more added sugar on an average as compared to men, revealed a recent survey by the **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)**-National Institute of Nutrition (NIN). The consumption of added sugar in women was recorded at 20.2 gm per day, while men consumed 18.7 gm per day. The overall intake of added sugar in metro cities was 19.5 gm per day, lower than the amount prescribed by ICMR, that is, 30 gm per day. Added sugars are sugar carbohydrates that are added to food and beverages during production. It is usually used to refer to sweetened foods. Of the women, housewives consumed the highest quantity of sugar, about 21.3 gm per day. Professionals, on the other hand, consumed 15.4 gm per day, suggesting greater awareness about the harmful effects of having added sugar. Excess consumption of added sugar can lead to health problems like obesity, diabetes and increased risk of heart diseases. Labourers consumed more sugar than professionals, at 18.3 gm per day. Dietary data from 16 major states had been collected during 2015-16, by the National Nutrition Monitoring Bureau (NNMB), which was then re-coded recipe-wise and city-wise before arriving at conclusions. As per the survey, the overall intake of sugar was found to be the highest in Mumbai among all other metropolitan cities. They further inferred that people from low income groups consumed higher quantities of sugar, about 19.4 gm per day, as compared to 18.8 gm per day in high income groups.

[Activists see red as health dept transfers reins of BMHRC back to ICMR](#)

January 8, 2019/The Times of India

After maintaining in the M P high court for over a year that merger of the Bhopal Memorial Hospital & Research (BMHRC) with All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Bhopal, is being considered in the interest of both institutions, the ministry of health and family welfare has handed over the BMHRC's administration back to the **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)**. The department of health & research (DHR) had earlier taken charge from the ICMR. An order issued with the signature of Vinod Kumar, deputy secretary in the government of India, says: "With the approval of competent authority, a high-power committee (HPC) was constituted by the department of health research (DHR) under the chairmanship of secretary, DHR, with members from department of health & family welfare, BMHRC, AIIMS, New Delhi, AIIMS, Bhopal, Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology, Trivandrum (Kerala) to decide the modalities for smooth functioning of BMHRC, Bhopal. The committee after detailed deliberations finalized and submitted its recommendations to the government. The committee recommended transfer of BMHRC to ICMR as one of its institutes. The recommendation of the HPC for transfer of BMHRC to ICMR was considered in the department and accepted by the competent authority. Accordingly, the administrative control of BMHRC stands transferred from DHR to ICMR". The order was issued on November 29, 2019.

[Experts to decide on inclusion and exclusion of antibiotics from NLEM today](#)



January 9, 2020/The Economics Times

New advice on which antibiotics are to be used for common infections and which ones are to be preserved for the most serious medical conditions are likely to be among the additions to the newly revised National List of Essential medicines (NLEM). The government-appointed experts' committee tasked with preparing the new NLEM will meet today to decide on which group of antibiotics should be included and excluded from the list, in a bid to curb indiscriminate use of antibiotics. The revision of the NLEM aims to ensure that antibiotics are available when needed, and that the right antibiotics are prescribed for the right infections. "The idea to review and revise antibiotics in the NLEM is that it should enhance treatment outcomes, curb drug-resistant bacteria, and preserve the effectiveness of crucial antibiotics that are needed when all others fail," said an expert, requesting anonymity. The third group-Reserve-includes antibiotics such as colistin and some cephalosporins that should be considered last-resort options, and used only in the most severe circumstances when all other alternatives have failed, such as for life-threatening infections due to multidrug-resistant bacteria. The WHO experts have added 10 antibiotics to the list for adults, and 12 for children. The committee on the National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM) headed by Balram Bhargava, secretary, department of health research and director-general of the **Indian Council of Medical Research** will decide on those medicines that should be available in adequate numbers and assured quality. "The drugs for which Indian population has become resistant are likely to be removed from the NLEM. The experts are also considering whether the third line antibiotics be included in the NLEM or not," added another expert.

[Infant Deaths Not One Hospital's Problem. Here's Why Infants Continue To Die Across India](#)

January 9, 2020/India Spend

In Rajasthan, over 101 infants died in Kota's JK Lon Hospital, 102 died in Jodhpur's Umaid and MDM hospitals, and 124 in Bikaner's Sardar Patel Medical College in the month of December. In Gujarat, 111 infants died at Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay Hospital in Rajkot and 85 died at the Ahmedabad civil hospital. Across India, there were 721,000 infant deaths in 2018, as per the United Nations' child mortality estimates. That's 1,975 infant deaths every day, on average, in 2018. "This [infant deaths] is not a Kota problem," said Sunil Mehra, paediatrician and executive director of the non-profit MAMTA that works on maternal and child health. "There are structural issues like lack of appropriate facility at primary centres, delays in referring patients [to specialists] and lack of transportation which lead to high infant deaths." IndiaSpend analysed health data from 13 states to understand why so many infants and children die across the country. States analysed include some of the poorest that form what the government calls the empowered action group (EAG)--Bihar, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Rajasthan, Odisha, Chhattisgarh and Assam; as well as Maharashtra and Gujarat that have been in the news for infant deaths in hospitals; and Goa, Kerala and Tamil Nadu, which have among the lowest infant mortality rates in the country.

Problems at birth

One in five children (21.4%) was born with low birth weight (under 2.5 kg), and only half of all children were exclusively breastfed (53.3%) for six months, which improves child health and cognition, according to a report by the **Indian Council of Medical Research**, published in The Lancet in September 2019.

“The biggest problem in rural and tribal areas is low birth weight of children and mother’s poor nutrition,” said Rupal Dalal, a paediatrician and adjunct faculty at the Centre for Technology Alternatives for Rural Areas, Indian Institute of Technology-Bombay. “Mothers don’t have proper guidance on breast-feeding at the time of birth and that increases the risk of low birthweight babies getting infections.”

Both states with high and low infant mortality have similar birth weight of babies, our analysis found. Uttarakhand (24.7%) had the highest percentage of low birth weight babies in 2015-16, followed by states with high infant mortalities such as Madhya Pradesh (21.9%), Rajasthan (21.4%) Odisha (20.8%) and Uttar Pradesh (20.7%) similar to Goa (22.3%)--which has low infant mortality--and Maharashtra (19.5%).

Cervical Cancer Awareness Month – CAPED Trust India offers screenings and awareness sessions in and around New Delhi

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Cancer Awareness, Prevention and Early Detection Trust, India, as the name suggests, a platform working towards the cause since 2014 has announced a series of activities to be commenced in the month of January which is also the cervical cancer awareness month, in order to create mass awareness of the said disease. CAPED India will be organizing 14 awareness sessions in schools, colleges and corporate; 14 screening sessions in low-income areas of Delhi NCR and eventually wrapping it up with an event in association with the Coke Studio Live.

Over the last three years, the estimated number of cases of cervical cancer has witnessed an increase from 99,000 to 1 lakh to 1.01 lakh, as per government statistics. Thus, every 8 minutes 1 Indian woman dies due to cervical cancer. Data quoted from the National Cancer Registry Program of the **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)**. Cervical cancer is one of India’s ironies. The irony is that despite cervical cancer being the only 100% preventable cancer among women; it is the largest killing women cancer in the country. In the five+ years since conception, CAPED India has been organizing sessions with the relevant target segments to educate and facilitate screening. Talking about the cause, Mridu Gupta, CEO, CAPED says, “CAPED Trust has chosen the cause of women-related cancers with a focus on cervical cancer. The mission is to identify and create different arenas to spread awareness and knowledge among women and empower them to take action for their health. The awareness and screening sessions are aimed to increase our outreach exponentially. We are aiming to screen 1 Lac+ rural women for cervical cancer.”

NatureFresh Acti Heart asks consumers to #StartAHeartResolution

January 10, 2020/Best Media Info



NatureFresh Acti Heart, the newest offering of Cargill's edible oils business in India, has launched a digital campaign, #StartAHeartResolution. This time of the year, social media is flooded with conversations around New Year resolutions for the next year but sticking to one is a different story altogether.

Built around this very premise, the campaign by NatureFresh Acti Heart looks to encourage consumers to adhere to their New Year resolution by picking one which is easy to stick to — that is to take care of their heart.

Positioned as a cooking oil that takes better heart care, NatureFresh Acti Heart aims to educate consumers on the importance of taking care of their heart early. This will go a long way in helping consumers start their new year with a resolution to take care of their heart, one they can stick to, all year long. NatureFresh Acti Heart takes better heart care+ with its power of five warriors, namely, Omega-3, MUFA, Vitamin A, D, E, oryzanol and an ideal omega 6: omega 3 ratios. 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 is a healthy oil for consumers. Its high smoking point makes it ideal for all types of Indian cooking — sautéing as well as frying.

The highlight of the campaign is an interesting AV that comprises three montages all depicting relatable scenarios showcasing how difficult it is to maintain New Year resolutions. However, we can choose to begin the New Year by starting a heart resolution with NatureFresh Acti Heart which is easy to keep. The videos feature three protagonists and their alter egos talking to each other.

With regards,

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