

Review Statement to be laid on the table of the Lok Sabha/Rajya Sabha along with the Annual Report and Annual Accounts together with Audit Report thereon for the year 2022-23 in respect of Indian Council of Medical Research, New Delhi

The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) is an autonomous body under Department of Health Research, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India. It is the apex and premier medical research organization in the country which spearheads planning, formulation, coordination, implementation and promotion of biomedical research. It is one of the oldest medical research bodies in the world. In 1911, Government of India made a historic decision to establish Indian Research Fund Association (IRFA) with the specific objectives of sponsoring and coordinating medical research in the country. After Independence, in 1949, the IRFA was re-designated as the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) with considerable expansion in its functions and activities. The year 2022-23 saw immense contribution of ICMR to National biomedical and Public Health Research. The following are the activities undertaken by ICMR during 2022-23:

1. Hon'ble Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare, laid the foundation stone on 25th June, 2022, for "International Centre of Excellence for Training in Medical Entomology (ICETIME)" in the premises of ICMR-Vector Control Research Centre (ICMR-VCRC), Puducherry.

2. There was inauguration of annex building of the centre and laying of foundation stone of School of Public Health and BSL III Laboratory at ICMR-Regional Medical Research Centre, Bhubaneswar, on 7th January, 2023 by Hon'ble Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare.

3. National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM), 2022 was released by Hon'ble Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare, on 13th September, 2022. It is expected to result in better quality of medical care, better management of medicines and cost-effective use of health care resources. The NLEM, 2022 contains 384 medicines in 27 therapeutic categories.

4. On World Sickle cell day, 19th June, 2022, ICMR-National Institute of Research in Tribal Health (ICMR-NIRTH) organized a workshop on "Holistic Management of Sickle Cell Disease (SCD)" in collaboration with the National Health Mission, Bhopal. Hon'ble Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare, Hon'ble Governor of Madhya Pradesh, and Hon'ble Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh, graced the occasion.

5. ICMR-National Institute of Research in Tribal Health (ICMR-NIRTH), Jabalpur had organized a two-day symposium on "Sickle Cell Disease in India" on 22nd-23rd February, 2023. Hon'ble Governor of Madhya Pradesh, graced the occasion.

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6. Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare, on 3rd December, 2022, released a book "ODI-SCI: The Odyssey of the women scientists of Odisha" which documents the life history of the great women scientists of the Odisha State.
 7. A total of more than 150 Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) have been framed by ICMR Bioethics Unit. This would serve as a source of information for young researchers and newly constituted ethics committees in various colleges/institutions across the country. The FAQ hard copy was released on 27th September, 2022 by Hon'ble Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare.
 8. Report on "A Situational Analysis of Childhood Cancer Care Services in India -2022" prepared by ICMR-National Centre for Disease Informatics and Research (ICMR-NCDIR) in collaboration with the Directorate General of Health Services, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare and the World Health Organization (India office) was released on 27th September, 2022 by Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare. The findings of the report emphasize the need to formulate a childhood cancer policy that would enable timely diagnosis, treatment, supportive care, and follow-up through well-defined care pathways.
 9. The first fatal case of Mpox was imported from UAE to Kerala, India in July, 2022 and was detected with the A.2 lineage of clade IIB. Genome characterization of Mpox cases detected in India led to the identification of three sub-clusters among the A.2 lineage. The Mpox DNA was detected in clinical samples from the 5th to 24th post-onset days (POD) in samples from the cases in Delhi. These Mpox cases without international travel history suggest the underdiagnosed Mpox infection in the community.
 10. The STREAM stage 2 clinical trial where ICMR-National Institute for Research in Tuberculosis (ICMR-NIRT) was the Nodal site in India contributed to the adoption of fully oral regimen of 9 Months in the National TB treatment guidelines. The ultra-short regimen of 6 months with two months injectable gave an efficacy above 80% even among rifampicin resistant study participants with pulmonary TB.
 11. ICMR-National Institute for Research in Tuberculosis (ICMR-NIRT) serves as the National Reference laboratory to National AIDS Control organization for HIV Viral load and HIV-TNA PCR testing. ICMR released the country's first 'Indian catalogue of Mycobacterium tuberculosis mutations and their association with drug resistance - 2022'
 12. ICMR-National Institute of Malaria Research (ICMR-NIMR) established a Malaria Slide Bank at national level to impart trainings and assessments for malaria microscopist at regular intervals and quality assurance. NIMR has prepared around 25000 slides till date.
 13. ICMR-National AIDS Research Institute (ICMR-NARI) contributed to development of guidelines for STI surveillance. The institute also contributed to guidelines for elimination of vertical transmission of HIV and syphilis (EVTHS).

14. This first-of-kind intervention study by ICMR-National Institute of Research in Tribal Health (ICMR-NIRTH) using modern techniques in field setting (hand-held X-ray, molecular diagnosis, etc.), was taken up in a highly endemic district of Madhya Pradesh, where Saharia tribal populations live, could successfully be replicated. Similar model is now being planned to be replicated in other Saharia-dominated districts of Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan.

15. New treatment guidelines (combination therapy of AmBisome and Miltefosine) for VL-HIV co-infected cases was endorsed by WHO and implemented in program through National Center for Vector Borne Diseases Control (NCVBDC), Government of India.

16. ICMR-Rajendra Memorial Research Institute of Medical Sciences (ICMR-RMRIMS) is designated as WHO Collaborating Centre for Leishmaniasis. Apart from various service components viz. ICTC, ART plus, OST, MDR/XDR diagnostic facility, VRDL (Medical college level), ICMR-RMRIMS, Patna is the designated centre for viral load testing and treatment for Hepatitis B & C for different districts of Bihar.

17. Future road map for the national program on prevention and control of snakebite in India was provided to NITI Aayog by ICMR-National Institute for Research in Reproductive and Child Health (ICMR-NIRRH). ICMR-National Institute of Nutrition (ICMR-NIN) estimated the glycaemic index and glycaemic loads of more than 150 foods such as breakfast foods, lunch and dinner foods, fast foods, bakery foods, chat foods, junk foods etc.

18. ICMR multi-centric task force study on polycystic ovarian syndrome (PCOS) is one of the largest studies providing data on prevalence of PCOS and regional phenotypic variation in India. The study provides valuable information relevant for clinical management and policy on PCOS. A systematic review and meta-analysis showed that cessation of areca nut usage (without tobacco) led to a 28.9% risk reversal of oral cancer and 48% reversal of pharyngeal cancer. For users of areca nut with smokeless tobacco, the risk for oral cancer was reduced in former users after 10 years of cessation. These results provide evidence for a policy for inclusion of areca nut cessation intervention in cancer control efforts.

19. ICMR-National Institute of Medical Sciences (ICMR-NIMS) is the nodal institute for management and analysis of HIV Sentinel Surveillance (HSS) data and to provide HIV burden estimates for India, States and UTs in collaboration with National AIDS Control Organization (NACO), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW), Government of India (GOI). ICMR-National Institute for Research in Reproductive and Child Health (ICMR-NIIRRH) established National clinical database and biorepository of endometriosis.

20. ICMR participated in the G20 Expo held during the 1st Health Working Group meeting at Thiruvananthapuram. The stall was conceptualized to display the council's achievements in the area of pandemic preparedness and translational research. Two films, on 'Outbreak

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Investigation and Pandemic Preparedness' and 'Translating Research into Action for Disease Management and Elimination' were also developed.

21. The council's first conclave on health communications "Connect and Collaborate 2022" was held on July 15, 2022. Experts and leading voices in public health, communications and health journalism were brought together to exchange learnings on a range of issues.

22. A special collection of 75 stories celebrating the spirit of New India, titled 'Changing the Nation's Health Landscape' was published. ICMR prepared a report 'ICMR's Response to COVID-19', which documents the various interventions undertaken by ICMR and its institutes to strengthen India's fight against COVID-19. ICMR Bioethics Unit, under the aegis of ICMR, has published a reference book on 'Biomedical Ethics Perspectives in The Indian Context.'

23. ICMR developed about 38 new technologies, designed 9 guidelines /policies, published 25 reports/database/manuals and started 19 academic Medical/paramedical courses. A total 5148 adhoc proposals were submitted, out of which, 691 were funded. A total of 42 Indian patent applications, 4 design applications, 3 copyright applications and 6 foreign patent applications were filed. 2 Indian patents and 4 foreign patents were granted. The total number of Research papers published in peer reviewed journals, through the several intramural Research Programmes by 27 institutes of ICMR organization, are 1018.

24. A total of 10 issues (including 4 special issues) of IJMR were published, the special issues being on 'Tuberculosis', 'HIV & Co-Infections', 'India & COVID-19 Part VI', 'Tribal Health'. ICMR-DHR International Fellowships were awarded to 25 Senior and 27 Young Indian Scientists. Six meetings of Health Ministry's Screening Committee were held wherein 201 projects were considered out of which 149 projects were approved for international collaboration. 3 MoUs were signed viz. MoU between ICMR and Inserm, France, MoU between ICMR and Department of Medical Services of Ministry of Public Health, Thailand and LoI between ICMR and the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations(CEPI), Norway for Cooperation on Vaccine Research, Development and Innovation.

Authenticated

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