The Director General (DG) of Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), Prof. (Dr.) Balram Bhargava visited the ICMR-National AIDS Research Institute (ICMR-NARI), Pune on 7th February 2019. Dr. Samiran Panda, Director, ICMR-NARI ushered him in to the campus and along with the Administrative Officer and Technical Officer (Engineering Support) showed him around the newly constructed ‘Facility for Collaborative Clinical Research’ (FCCR) and ongoing renovation work of laboratory building. The fountain, the garden and the smiling faces of the support staff greeted Dr. Bhargava during his tour within the ICMR-NARI premises. This was Dr. Bhargava’s first visit to the institute. Being accompanied by the Director, Dr. Bhargava met a group of Lower Divisional Clerks and discussed issues related to promotion. Then he addressed a gathering in the auditorium comprising of Scientists, staff of Administrative division, PhD scholars, Post-Doctoral fellows and support service staff. His thought provoking talk and subsequent hearty interactions with the audience created moments of joy and chserishable memories. During these interactions, Dr. Bhargava highlighted the need for time bound completion of the projects – be it infrastructure development related issues or scientific in nature.

Major highlights of this visit by DG, ICMR and ensuing discussions were as follows:

1. Expansion of mandate of the Institute with a commensurate change of name along with development of a new vision statement towards which all the staff of IMCR-NARI have been working under the aegis of the Director, NARI. Inputs have also been received from public health experts and laboratory Scientists from outside NARI.
2. Commendable work carried out by the Scientists investigating spiked detection of HIV in the Unnao district of Uttar Pradesh.
3. The need for doing away with floral bouquet presentation or using banners made of flex or any other materials while digital electronic means could be used for any event related projection.
4. Onus on the Scientists to develop research projects with translation potential and complete them with intramural support within shorter time span while applying for extramural grants.

While appreciating the cleanliness of the building maintained at ICMR-NARI, Dr. Balram Bhargava encouraged to take up landscaping activities for beautification within campus of the institution.