

**Prof (Dr) Balram Bhargava, Secretary DHR and DG ICMR visited ICMR-RMRC Gorakhpur and unveiled Mahatma Gandhi Sculpture on the occasion of the post inauguration event of the New building of ICMR-RMRC, Gorakhpur**

Secretary DHR & DG ICMR, Prof (Dr.) Balram Bhargava visited ICMR-RMRC Gorakhpur, during 6-8<sup>th</sup> December, 2021. He graced the post inauguration events organized as part of the inaugural ceremony of the new building of the Institute by Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. He unveiled the Gandhi Sculpture at the entrance of the new building, took a round of the laboratories and graced the event. He congratulated the Director and Staff of the RMRC for this great accomplishment and excellent efforts in completing the project in limited time despite the COVID-19 pandemic. He advised Scientists working at RMRC Gorakhpur to focus and establish an ecosystem wherein the health research is promoted and induced young scientist to work not only to lead India but also to lead the world. He assured on providing the full support from ICMR headquarters where ever required and possible. DG also felicitated the staff of RMRC Gorakhpur who completed 10 years as well as to those who contributed immensely in the fight against COVID-19. On the occasion Dr Samiran Panda, Addl DG, ICMR ; Dr Sanjay Mehendale, Director Research, Hinduja Hospital and Research Centre Mumbai and Former Addl DG, ICMR, and Shri Vivek Thakur Hon'ble Member of Parliament were also present...An exhibition on epidemic preparedness was also organized.





**Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi inaugurates the new building of ICMR-Regional Medical Research Centre (RMRC), Gorakhpur**

Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated the new building of ICMR-RMRC Gorakhpur on 7<sup>th</sup> December, 2021 along with the dignitaries like Uttar Pradesh Governor Smt. Anandiben Patel, Chief Minister Shri Yogi Adityanath and others on the

dais. PM addressed the nation that “For any country to progress it is indeed very essential that its health services are accessible and affordable for all. He said the cases of encephalitis have reduced by almost 90 percent in seven districts of Gorakhpur and Basti division that saved children’s life. He added that with the new ICMR-RMRC and AIIMS facility together, the campaign to get rid of encephalitis, other infectious disease and epidemics will be further strengthened”.



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### **Symposium on 8<sup>th</sup> Dec, 2021**

Symposium on “New dimensions in Health Research with focus on emerging and Re- emerging infection and Pandemic Preparedness” was held on 8<sup>th</sup> December, 2021 at ICMR-RMRC Gorakhpur on the occasion of the Inauguration of its new building. The symposium was started with the Inaugural session by the Director, ICMR-RMRC Gorakhpur followed by the four sessions.

Dr. Rajni Kant, Director, ICMR-RMRC, Gorakhpur highlighted the major accomplishment of the Institute in the field of acute encephalitis syndrome and indentifying scrub typhus as the key contributor in the disease thus significantly reducing the mortality rate. He added that during COVID-19 pandemic, >9 Lakh samples have been tested by RMRC along with undertaking the studies to understand the vaccine interchangeability, impact of COVID on MCH Services and others. He said that the coming up of new building will help to expand the RMRC domain in undertaking the genome sequencing of the disease causing microbes thus expanding in depth medical research in the areas of the viral, bacterial, fungal and parasitic diseases.

**Session I** focused on the lessons learnt during COVID-19 pandemic. Dr. Samiran Panda, Head ECD Division, ICMR-HQ thrown light on the role of ICMR and appreciated the effort made by the Govt. of India along with scientific and medical community in tackling COVID-19. Dr. Priya Abraham, Director, ICMR-NIV, Pune highlighted that NIV was first to publish whole genome, discussed the nomenclature of SARS- CoV-2 variants and the emerging omicron variant. Dr. Pragya Yadav, Scientist E & Head BSL-4, ICMR-NIV, Pune highlighted the whole journey of the virus to vaccine development and summarized the findings of the clinical trials of the Covaxin. Mr. Kaushik Bose, Vice President, GHS, discussed the importance of communication and flow of information by three T’s Trust, Transparent and Timeliness pattern of communicating.

**Session II** focused on the One Health. Dr. Subeer S. Majumdar, Senior Consultant, NIAB, Hyderabad provided an overview of the one health consortium and talked about how human, animal and environmental health is interrelated. Dr. Manju Rahi, Scientist-F, ICMR, HQ enlightened with

zoonotic diseases, the gap in indentifying it, various research activities on zoonotic diseases to take place in ICMR. She also described about the establishment of the One Health Institute in Nagpur. Dr. Sanghamitra Pati, Director, ICMR-RMRC Bhubaneswar, described the old and known vector borne disease Anthrax, its prevalence and prevention in the districts of Odhisa.

**Session III** focused on the Impact of climate change on Vector Borne Disease. Dr. R.S. Yadav, WHO, HQ, Geneva briefed about the vector borne diseases that are prevalent globally, focused on the global dengue burden especially in Africa, Chikungunya, Zika; JE outbreaks in different parts of the south east and western pacific. He focused on the strategic approach on controlling and eliminating vector borne disease by 2030. Dr. R.C. Dhiman, Former Scientist G, ICMR- NIMR mentioned about the vector borne diseases their transmission, effect of climate change on the malaria parasite and focused on strengthening the health system in endemic areas. Dr. P.K. Srivastava, Former Joint Director, NVBDCP, New Delhi enlightened with the issue of climate change and factors which are involved with the increased risk of infection and transmission of Lymphatic Filariasis.

**Session IV** focused on JE/AES- the research experience and future needs. Dr. M.M. Gore, Former OIC, ICMR-NIV, Gorakhpur Unit explained the establishment of the NIV field unit at Gorakhpur for JE/AE research. Dr. Amita Jain, Professor & Head, Dept. of Microbiology, KGMU, Lucknow highlighted the AES aetiologies, its diagnosis, and shared views on the current scenario of AES. Dr. V.P. Bondre, Scientist F, ICMR-NIV, Pune highlighted the genetic characterization of JEV scrub typhus, Rickettsia, Dengue and highlighted the success of collaborative work done at NIV, Gorakhpur. Dr. Mahima Mittal, Professor and Head, Dept. of Pediatrics, AIIMS Gorakhpur, explained her experiences in managing the pediatric cases of JE/AES.

In the concluding remarks, Dr J.P. Narain, Former Regional Adviser, WHO and Advisor, ICMR-RMRC, Gorkahpur –Keylong Field Unit highlighted the major lessons learnt from the COVID-19 pandemic. He also highlighted the stellar contribution of the RMRC Gorakhpur for AES in eastern UP.



