



PRESS RELEASE

Dr Harsh Vardhan, Union Minister for Health & Family Welfare Unveils ICMR History Timeline at New Delhi, Headquarters

The timeline highlights the milestone achievements made during 108 years of ICMR's journey in managing national and global public health challenges

New Delhi, September 28, 2020: Dr. Harsh Vardhan, Hon'ble Union Minister for Health & Family Welfare unveiled the history timeline of ICMR depicting 108 year journey of the Council since the day of its inception in 1911, when it used to be known as Indian Research Fund Association (IRFA). The timeline poster, on display at the ICMR Headquarters in New Delhi features stories and photos that capture key milestones during the century old – journey.

The timeline mentions important achievements – such as the discovery of the Bombay blood group; the birth of the Indian Journal of Medical Research; the delivery of India's first test-tube baby; and demonstrating for the first time in the world that home-based treatment of TB can be as successful as hospital- based treatment to role played by ICMR in tackling the diseases like Kyasanur Forest Disease (KFD), Nipah & Zika. It also captures policy and program interventions by ICMR and its institutes to control diseases like tuberculosis, malaria, polio and neglected tropical diseases (NTDs) that once affected the population at an epidemic level, and its pioneering work in the fields of maternal and child health, HIV, cancer and nutrition, among others.

Unveiling the new history timeline, **Dr Harsh Vardhan Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare, Government of India** said "*Today's a historic day for ICMR. It's an honour for me to release 108-year timeline of history of ICMR within its premises. The contribution of scientists associated with it is commemorated & serves as an inspiration to upcoming scientists. ICMR has contributed immensely towards the nation's welfare; however, its contributions have not been adequately recognized by the public. Through these exhibits, the people will take pride in knowing the contributions of ICMR's, and the country's, in the area of medical sciences.*"

Prof (Dr.) Balram Bhargava, Secretary, Department of Health Research and Director General, ICMR said, "*From its initial days to provide fund to research in tropical diseases, ICMR has now metamorphosed into an organization that carries out pioneering work in areas of maternal and child health, nutrition, lifestyle diseases, communicable diseases and occupational health. By recognizing our exceptional past, we at the Council will be further motivated to strive harder to fight the current and future public health crises including the non-communicable diseases (NCDs).*"

About ICMR: *The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), New Delhi, is the apex body in India for the formulation, coordination and promotion of biomedical research, is one of the oldest medical research bodies in the world. ICMR's research priorities align with the National health priorities. These efforts are undertaken with a view to reduce the total burden of disease and to promote health and well-being of the population. ICMR promotes biomedical research in the country through intramural as well as extramural research. Visit us at <https://www.icmr.gov.in/>*

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