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Government of India  
Ministry of Health & Family Welfare  
(Department of Health Research)

2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Red Cross Building, New Delhi

Dated: 24<sup>th</sup> March, 2023

**Subject: - Monthly Summary to the Cabinet for the month of February, 2023-Reg.**

The undersigned is directed to circulate herewith a copy of the unclassified portion of the **Monthly Summary for the Cabinet** pertaining to the Department of Health Research (Ministry of Health and Family Welfare) for the month of February, 2023.



(H C Mondal)

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To

1. All members of Council of Ministers
2. Deputy Chairman, NITI Aayog, Yojana Bhawan, New Delhi.
3. The Principal Information Officer, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, New Delhi

Copy to:

The Director, Cabinet Secretariat, Rashtrapati Bhawan, New Delhi-110001

Copy also forwarded for information to:

1. Secretary to the Government of India, All Ministries/Departments.
2. The Chairman, UPSC, Shahjahan Road, New Delhi.
3. Secretary to the President of India (Rashtrapati Ke Sachiv), Rashtrapati Bhawan, New Delhi.
4. Secretary to the Vice-President of India (Up-Rashtrapati ke Sachiv), Rashtrapati Bhawan, New Delhi.
5. PS to Prime Minister of India, South Block, New Delhi
6. Secretary, Inter-State Council Secretariat, MHA, Vigyan Bhawan Annexe, New Delhi.

Monthly report in the format on important issues/ developments for the month of February, 2023 is submitted herewith for kind perusal.

**1. Important policy decisions taken and major achievements during the month:**

**a) Policy decisions:**

1. The Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI), signed a Letter of Intent with ICMR identifying opportunities to work together to advance vital vaccine research, development and innovation.
2. 2nd National Consultation on Smokeless Tobacco Control in India.
3. ICMR centre for assistive technology has been built within 30 days and DG-ICMR inaugurated the centre.

**b) Major achievements:**

**i) Major publications with significant health impact (More than 52, some of the publication topics listed below):**

1. Pancreatic Cancer Treatment by Using Theragnostic Nanoparticles, Genome editing, Advances in transgene delivery, A pilot study of biomarker detection for lung cancer, Tuberculosis disease disclosure patterns, enhanced humoral responses in elderly post BCG vaccination.
2. National Snakebite project on capacity building, Mitochondrial epigenetic modifications, Impact of Sub-patent Malaria During Pregnancy on Birth-Weight in Odisha, Occupational Satisfaction of Public Hospital Nurses in India, Outbreak of cholera in a remote village in western India.
3. A typical clinical presentation of Zika virus from India.

**ii) Major events hosted (Conferences, Workshops, and Meetings etc):** More than 55 meetings, workshops, webinars and conferences were hosted by various ICMR Institutes, some of the important one listed below:

1. 150<sup>th</sup> meeting of Health Ministry's Screening Committee (HMSC) held at ICMR Hqrs., New Delhi, wherein 35 new projects were considered for international collaboration/assistance.
2. Meeting of Screening Committee on Research Proposals (SCRCP) to deliberate upon proposals submitted by governmental entities involving international collaboration/funding held.
3. Roundtable discussion on international collaboration in health services, organized by King's College, London, UK & Voice of Healthcare at New Delhi.
4. A three-day International Workshop on "Capacity building for TB research in programmatic settings" under the aegis of WHO SEAR Regional Research Platform.

**iii) Major projects undertaken: (15 New major projects were undertaken, some of them listed below):**

1. Leprosy Research Initiative Netherland funded project "Molecular mechanisms of immunomodulation by MIP vaccine in multibacillary leprosy patients.
2. A comprehensive study for upper gastrointestinal cancers (esophageal & stomach) and nasopharyngeal cancer in Northeast India.
3. Countrywide survey of Nipah virus in Pteropus bats.
4. Profiling the Anti-SARS CoV-2 antibody responses in HIV/COVID-19 co-infected individuals.

**iv) Training and capacity building programmes, courses etc.:** More than 40 training and capacity building programs were taken for students, trainers, state level officer engaged in the health programs by ICMR and ICMR institutes. Some of them are listed below.

1. A lecture on "Role of genome maintenance in placental development and pregnancy complications".
2. Orientation to occupational health.
3. Development of indigenous reagent red cell panels for identification and characterization of blood group alloantibodies in North East India.

**v) MoU Signed: 4**

1. MoU for research collaboration between ICMR-NIRT and Indian Institute of Technology-Madras.
2. Dengue Vaccine Trial - Clinical Trial Agreement (CTA) between ICMR HQ, Panacea, Seth G.S. Medical College & KEM Hospital, Mumbai.
3. Dengue Vaccine Trial - Clinical Trial Agreement (CTA) between ICMR HQ, Panacea, All India Institute of Medical Sciences Bibinagar, Telangana.
4. Dengue Vaccine Trial - Clinical Trial Agreement (CTA) between ICMR HQ, Panacea, Jawaharlal Nehru Medical College, Aligarh.

**vi)** Under the Central Sector Scheme of Multi Disciplinary Research Units (MRUs), six new Multi Disciplinary Research Units were sanctioned in Dephu Medical College & Hospital, Diphu, Assam; Texpur Medical College & Hospital, Tezpur, Assam; Vardhman Mahavir Medical College (VMMC) & Safdarjung Hospital, New Delhi; All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Bhopal; Sarojini Naidu Medical College, Agra, Uttar Pradesh; All India Institute of Medical Science Deoghar, Jharkhand.

**2. Important policy matters held up on account of prolonged Inter-Ministerial consultations:**  
**NIL.**

**3. No. of cases of 'sanction for prosecution' pending for more than three months:**  
10 cases in Chennai CAT and 1 case in High Court

**4. Particulars of cases in which there has been a departure from the Transaction of Business Rules or established policy of the Government: NIL**

**5. Status of ongoing Swachhta Abhiyan (progress under Special campaign):**

Various aspects of the Swachhta like monitoring day to day cleaning work and digitization of office records are regular activities of DHR and ICMR.

6. **Status of Rationalization of Autonomous bodies: NIL**

7. **Information on specific steps taken for utilization of the space technology based tools and applications in Governance and Development: NIL**

8. **Vacancy position of senior level appointments in the Ministry/Department, including Autonomous Bodies/PSUs:**

Positions for Additional Director General (ICMR), and Directors of the 4 ICMR institutes.

9. **List of cases in which ACC directions have not been complied with: NIL**