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

2nd Floor, Red Cross Building, New Delhi

Dated: 13th July, 2023

Subject: - Monthly Summary to the Cabinet for the month of June, 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 June, 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 June, 2023 is submitted herewith for kind perusal.

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

a) Policy decisions:

1. A document on National Security Strategy focusing on the role of ICMR and its Institutes and VRDLs in biowarfare defense and preparedness was submitted to the National Security Council Secretariat.
2. Visit by Denmark delegation to ICMR for discussion on proposed collaboration with ICMR in the area of AMR.
3. ICMR released documents on eMBSL-3 SOPs and guidelines.

b) Major achievements:

i) Major publications with significant health impact (More than 60, some of the important publication topics listed below):

1. Isolation of a Novel Mosquitocidal Bacterium *Bacillus cereus* VCRC-641 from Fresh Water Fish *Clarias batrachus*.
2. Complex epidemiology of malaria in India impact its elimination.
3. Characterisation of *Anopheles* species composition and genetic diversity in Meghalaya.
4. System biology investigation revealed lipopolysaccharide and alcohol-induced hepatocellular carcinoma resembled hepatitis B virus immunobiology and pathogenesis.
5. Genomic evolution of the SARS-COV-2 variants.
6. Phytochemical molecules binding with the proteins of mycolic acid synthesis pathway of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*.
7. Low body mass index is associated with diminished plasma cytokines and chemokines.

ii. Major events hosted (Conferences, Workshops and Meetings etc): More than 50 meetings, workshops, webinars and conferences were hosted by various ICMR Institutes, some of the important one listed below-

1. A "Hindi Karyashala" was organized.
2. ICMR Intramural Research and Innovation Meet.
3. Meeting on "Accelerating TB Elimination: Learnings from TB Prevalence Surveys" at ICMR-NIRT.
4. One day symposium on Health Policy and communication for achieving Universal Health Coverage.

iii. Major projects undertaken: Some of the initiated project listed below:

1. Evaluation of a Circulating Filarial (*Wuchereria bancrofti*) Antigen Test for Lymphatic Filariasis (LF) as a part of "A multi-country comprehensive field evaluation of the SD Biosensor STANDARD TM Q lateral Flow Assay rapid diagnostic Test (QFAT)".
2. Artificial Intelligence-based tools for detection of breast and oral cancer.
3. Assessment of cross-neutralization of human antibodies against Monkeypox (virus) among smallpox vaccine recipients by Plaque Reduction Neutralization Test.
4. Profiling the Anti-SARS CoV-2 antibody responses in HIV/COVID-19 co-infected individuals.
5. Capacity Building Training for Frontline Health Workers for Screening and Management of Common Mental Health Disorders in Primary Care.

iv. Training and capacity building programmes, courses etc.: More than 55 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. Molecular Xenomonitoring of emerging and re-emerging Vector Borne Diseases of Public Health Importance.
2. Training on ICMR Guidelines for Ethics.
3. Clinical management for Dengue and Chikungunya.
4. Virtual mode training for the Tribal TB study.
5. Statistical Disease Modelling and Predictions.

v. MoU Signed: 6

1. MoU between ICMR-VCRC, Puducherry and Saveetha Institute of Medical and Technical Science, Chennai to enhance the quality of teaching and learning process, research and extension of services to the society at large through collaborative teaching and learning programmes.
2. ICMR-NIMR, and PATH to recruit trained health workers and researchers to assess usability of the G6PD tests through a questionnaire, (the "Project").
3. ICMR-NIV and Rabies Laboratory, ICMR-NIV, Pune and Department of Neurovirology, NIMHANS, Bengaluru for Inter-Laboratory Comparison of Rabies Diagnostic Assays (Semi-annual, for 5 years).
4. ICMR-NIV and AIIMS, Raipur to work on DBT Welcome India Alliance funded project 'Sero-epidemiology, maternal immune status and missed diagnosis of pertussis among young infants in India: A multi-centric study'.
5. CISF and ICMR-NIV, Pune for enhancing the security of Microbial Containment Complex, Pashan.
6. By-SOA University and ICMR-RMRCBB for Academics and Research.

vi. Innovative TB Health Technology Sharing Platform – An enabling workshop was inaugurated by Hon'ble Shri S. P. Singh Baghel, Hon'ble MOS (Health) on 15th and 16th June 2023.

vii. National Ethics Committee Registry for Biomedical and Health Research (NECRBHR) has issued 298 Final Certificates and 1173 Provisional Certificates out of 1523 Applications Received.

2. **Important policy matters held up on account of prolonged Inter-Ministerial consultations: NIL**
3. **Particulars of cases in which there has been a departure from the Transaction of Business Rules or established policy of the Government: NIL**
4. **No. of cases of 'sanction for prosecution' pending for more than three months: NIL**
5. **Status of ongoing Swachta 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 ICMR & DHR.
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 advertised for the post of Additional Director General, Head of Three divisions and Directors of 5 ICMR Institutes.**
9. **List of cases in which ACC directions have not been complied with: NIL**