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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: 19<sup>th</sup> June, 2023

**Subject: - Monthly Summary to the Cabinet for the month of May, 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 May, 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 (RashtrapatiKeSachiv), Rashtrapati Bhawan, New Delhi.
4. Secretary to the Vice-President of India (Up-RashtrapatikeSachiv), 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 May, 2023 is submitted herewith for kind perusal.

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

**a) Policy decisions:**

1. Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya, Hon'ble Union Minister of Health & Family Welfare, and Dr. Bharati Pravin Pawar, Hon'ble Minister of State, Health chaired ICMR Governing Council Meeting as President and Vice President, respectively.

2. Policy on Research Infrastructure Sharing Ecosystem (P-RISE) by DHR-ICMR is placed for public consultation.

3. Trial Run of Blood Bag Delivery under the iDrone Initiative of ICMR successfully conducted.

**b) Major achievements:**

**i. Major publications with significant health impact (More than 56 and some of the important publication topics listed below):**

1. Development of DNA barcode-based PCR methodology to distinguish two sympatric species viz. *Phlebotomus argentipes* and *Phlebotomus colabaensis*.
2. Host immune responses in aged rhesus macaques against BBV152.
3. An important case of fatal encephalitis associated with mpox virus infection.
4. Universal drug-susceptibility testing among sputum smear-positive tuberculosis patients.
5. Diabetes Mellitus and Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) infection in people with tuberculosis in Odisha.
6. A protocol for feasibility of plasma based GeneXpert platform and Dried Blood Spot (DBS) based Abbott platform for HIV-1 viral load.
7. Impact of inflammatory cytokine and adipokine gene variations in the development of HIV-associated lipodystrophy.

**ii. Major events hosted (Conferences, Workshops, and Meetings etc):** More than 45 meetings, workshops, webinars and conferences were hosted by various ICMR Institutes, some of the important one listed below:

1. National Consortium on Maternal Nutrition led by ICMR, Delhi organized National Conclave to culminate learnings from technical e-dialogue series.
2. One day work shop on "BASICS OF ETHICAL ISSUES IN BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH".
3. A workshop was organised on "Sickle cell disease-related stigma, economic loss and quality of life among tribal population of India".
4. A one-week workshop on 'Randomized Clinical Trials' was conducted at ICMR-NIRRH.
5. Launch of Annual Capacity Building Plan by Hon'ble HFM.
6. 154th meeting of Health Ministry's Screening Committee (HMSC).

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

1. Profiling the Anti-SARS CoV-2 antibody responses in HIV/COVID-19 co-infected individuals.
2. Mega TB: "A demonstration project for reduction of tuberculosis in India- a multi-centric study".

3. Immune status against SARS-CoV-2 against COVID-19 vaccinated adults in India: A health facility based multicentric serial cross sectional survey.
4. ICMR Epihub: A platform for epidemic intelligence in infectious disease epidemiology.

**iv. Training and capacity building programmes, courses etc.: More than 48 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. Training on Biosafety for CBRN course (Theme: Biosafety & Disaster Management).
2. Two day training on HIV-1 Viral Load Testing.
3. Health Economics Modelling Workshop.
4. Training of the MRHRU staff under Immune survey against SARS-CoV-2 held.

**v. Patent filed/Approved: 2**

1. Metal-based Nano-compositions of Phytoconstituents for Inhibition of HIV-1 Infection.
2. Combinatorial Formulations of Biliproteins in Extenuation of Sexually Transmitted Viral Infections.

**vi. MoU Signed: 3**

1. ICMR Vector Control Research Centre and Sri ManakulaVinayagar Medical College and Hospital, Puducherry 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. MoU signed between ICMR & Ayush Ministry to accelerate Integrative Health Research.
3. ICMR & Cancer Grid India signed MoA to promote clinical trials for cancer.

**vii. One Medical College level VRDL has been sanctioned for Govt. Medical College, Lakhimpur, Assam.**

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 SwachhtaAbhiyan (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 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.