

No.Q-11030/01/2022-HR/eoffice-8146114

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

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

Dated: 17<sup>th</sup> May, 2023

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



(H C Mondal)

Under Secretary to the Govt. of India

Email: dhrhq.icmr@gmail.com

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 April, 2023 is submitted herewith for kind perusal.

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

**a) Policy decisions:**

1. Sharing of cancer data of AB-PMJAY with National Cancer Registry Programme.
2. ICMR-NIV entered into a collaboration with the Translational Health Science and Technology Institute, Faridabad, for sharing of COVID-19 clinical samples.
3. Internal audit of the PEF inventory was conducted as per the GAP-IV requirements.
4. A team of WHO officials visited ICMR-NIV in connection with the development of PEF.
5. SARS-CoV-2 XBB.1.16 strain was transferred to Bharat Biotech International Limited, Hyderabad for development of variant specific vaccine.
6. Live Kyasanur Forest Disease virus was transferred to the Institute of Animal Health and Veterinary Biologicals, Bengaluru for the development of a KFD vaccine.
7. Documents pertaining to the capacity of ICMR-NIV for Randomized Control Trials (last 5 years) were submitted to ICMR.

**b) Major achievements:**

**i) Major publications with significant health impact (More than 41, some of the important publication topics listed below):**

1. Newly developed aqueous formulation of novel biopesticide *Bacillus cereus* VCRC-641 for mosquito control.
2. Development of DNA barcode-based PCR methodology to distinguish two sympatric species viz. *Phlebotomus argentipes* and *Phlebotomus colabaensis*.
3. Parry–Romberg syndrome.
4. Erythematous Plaques on the Extensors of the Extremities.
5. Assessment of health-related quality of life using PCOSQ tool.
6. Vaccination coverage and breakthrough infections of COVID-19.
7. Vitamin D receptor genetic polymorphisms in severe and recurrent tuberculosis in children.

**ii) Book chapters/articles topics published:**

1. Traditional Knowledge in Tribal Society.
2. Health profile of people living in the Gare Palma mining area of Tamnar block, Raigarh.
3. Prevalence of Hypertension and Diabetes in Health workers of Jabalpur & Dindori.
4. Assessment of Health Aspects of Tribal Adolescent Girls in India's Most Populous Tribal State.

**iii) Major events hosted (Conferences, Workshops, and Meetings etc):** More than 52 meetings, workshops, webinars and conferences were hosted by various ICMR Institutes, some of the important one listed below:-

1. ICMR in Collaboration with MICA and GHS conducted final contact session of Health Communication Course and awarded certificate to 30 Health Communicators.
2. Release of Health Special Issue of "Vigyan Pragati".
3. On the occasion of the World Health Day 2023, Child Health Clinic was organized on the theme 'Health for All'.
4. World Haemophilia Day celebration, A mega event on G-20 activity, G20 Jan Bhagidari was organized by ICMR-RMRC.
5. Mental Health and Meditation programme –Har Ghar Dhyani under the aegis of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav.

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

1. Study on relationship between air pollution exposure of pregnant women and epigenetic changes mediated by AhR/CYP1A signaling pathway with the risk of intrauterine growth restriction.
2. To study immunogenetic basis of preeclampsia in Indian women.
3. Profiling the Anti-SARS CoV-2 antibody responses in HIV/COVID-19 co-infected individuals.
4. Tribal TB: Comprehensive tribal management for decentralized TB care services.

**v) 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. Advanced Entomological Surveillance Techniques (Xenomonitoring) and Integrated Vector Management for Lymphatic Filariasis.
2. Training on Biosafety for CBRN course.
3. Scientific Publication and ethics.

**vi) MoU Signed: 2**

1. MoU between RMRC, Patna and Mahavir Cancer Sansthan, Patna for renewal of Ethics Committee support.
2. MoU between RMRC, Patna and Mahavir Vatsalya Asptal, Patna was signed on for providing Ethics Committee support.

**c)** 35<sup>th</sup> Technical Appraisal Committee Meeting was held on 20.04.2023 to discuss Health Technology Assessment (HTA) Studies on TB management and Sickle Cell diagnosis.

**d)** A meeting of Steering Group and Guidelines Development Group of Centre for Evidence for Guidelines was held on 11.04.2023 to begin the process of formulation of evidence based guidelines on Stem Cell therapy in the country.

**e)** One Medical College level Virus Research and Diagnostic Laboratory (VRDL) has been setup at Chhattisgarh during the month of April, 2023.

f) 61 provisional certificates and 27 final certificates have been issued to Ethics Committees, for Biomedical and Health Research under the ambit of the New Drugs and Clinical Trials Rules 2019 during the month of April, 2023.

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:**  
10 cases in Chennai CAT and 1 case in High Court.

5. **Status of ongoing Swachhta Abhiyan (progress under Special campaign):**  
Various aspects of the Swachhta like monitoring day to day cleaning work of the campus, 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: 5 Institute Directors positions vacant.**

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