

स्वास्थ्य अनुसंधान विभाग
Department of Health Research
प्राप्ति और प्रेषण अनुभाग
R. & I. Section
जारी किया.....
Issued.....

No.Q-11030/01/2020-HR/coffice-8048406
Government of India
Ministry of Health & Family Welfare
(Department of Health Research)

2nd Floor, Red Cross Building, New Delhi
Dated the 18th March, 2020

Subject: - Monthly Summary to the Cabinet for the month of February, 2020-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, 2020.



(D. R. Meena)

Deputy 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.

**MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH RESEARCH**

Monthly Summary for the Cabinet for February, 2020

The Monthly report on important issues/development for the month of February, 2020 in respect of Department of Health Research/Indian Council of Medical Research is submitted herewith for your kind perusal.

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

- a) **Outbreak Investigation of Global coronavirus in India:** Swiftly established and standardized diagnostic tests for the SARS-CoV2 virus at ICMR-NIV, Pune providing diagnosis from mid-January. With the increased numbers of test request for travellers returning from China, the capacity for testing was scaled upto another 13 VRDLs selected based on their location in cities with International Airport, past performance, availability of required expertise and infrastructure etc. Initial support for lab testing was also provided to NCDC, Delhi. As of now 13 VRDLs are testing for SARS-CoV2. Test results communicated to the concerned promptly.
- b) **Surveillance of outbreak of Avian Influenza H5N1 in a poultry farm in Ambikapur, Chhattisgarh:** Nasopharyngeal samples collected from individuals with suspected exposure to an outbreak of Avian Influenza H5N1 in a poultry farm in Ambikapur, all tested negative for Influenza A(H5N1).
- c) **Countrywide Surveillance for Nipah virus in Pteropus bats:** Among the throat, rectal swabs and serum samples collected from approximately 650 bats from 6 states (Gujarat, Kerala, Telangana, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Himachal Pradesh) and 2 union territories (Puducherry and Chandigarh), none found positive for the Nipah virus by qRT-PCR assay, but anti-Nipah bat IgG antibodies were detected in the serum samples of the bats from Tamil Nadu and Puducherry. The seropositivity explains an ongoing transmission of Nipah in bats and suggests the need for strengthening human surveillance.
- d) **Published an Op-ed entitled, "Prepared for Coronavirus"** in The Hindu on 11th February, 2020.
- e) **WHO designated ICMR-NCDIR Bengaluru as the WHO Collaborating Centre for Strengthening Ethics in Biomedical and Health Research** and is the first WHO Collaborating Centre for Ethics among the 11 countries of the WHO South East Asia Region.

- f) **Developed and completed internal validation of a novel Anti-HEV rapid test kit** using a panel of 20 coded serum samples.
- g) **Evaluated HIV testing kit** under the WHO sponsored prequalification activities of kit testing.
- h) **Initiated/completed 26 projects** on different subjects including Occupational injuries and evaluation of pollutants among non-traditional tribal community fisherman in coastal area of Tamil Nadu; Occupational health hazard evaluation in women workers employed in coffee plantation; Investigation of workers engaged in construction activities in Bangalore; Occupational health survey among coal mine workers in Jharkhand; Investigation of workers engaged in construction activities in Kolkata; Prevalence of fluorosis in the community of selected districts of India and development of an appropriate intervention model for prevention and control of fluorosis; Studies on vascular endothelial dysfunction molecules in dengue virus: In search of a potential marker for DHF/DSS; Cohorts for HIV Resistance and Progression in Indian Children and Adults (CoHRPICA); Prevalence of COPD in a sub-urban population in Chennai; Improving the Health care Access and Quality in the context of Achieving Universal Health Coverage (UHC) among scheduled Tribes: An Implementation Research; Mapping hotspots of MDR-TB in Assam, Tripura and Sikkim using Genomics approaches;
- i) **Published 58 lead papers including** on Global Emergence of West Nile Virus: threat and preparedness in special perspective to India; Characterization of the diversity of measles viruses in India: genomic sequencing and comparative genomics studies; Detection of Nipah virus in *Pteropus medius* in 2019 outbreak from Ernakulam district, Kerala, India; A virus precipitation method for the concentration & detection of avian influenza viruses from environmental water resources and & its possible application in outbreak investigations; Assessing the susceptibility of highly pathogenic avian influenza H5N1 viruses to oseltamivir using embryonated chicken eggs; Evaluation of web portal India against cancer: web portal using environmental scan and Google analytics; BS Assessment of systemic inflammatory response markers in workers exposed to Pb from Pb battery plant; Docosahexaenoic acid supplementation in age-related cognitive decline: a systematic review and meta-analysis; Atypical presentation of Hand foot mouth disease (HFMD) caused by enterovirus serotype Coxsackievirus A6, in India;
- j) **Conducted 10 important meetings** for sensitization on Novel Coronavirus outbreak with Regional VRDL officials of various Govt. & private health care facilities of the Orissa state; meeting with **Jharkhand State** NVBDCP officials to

control Vector Borne Diseases (VBDs) in Jharkhand; meeting with **Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) Paris, France** pertaining to initiation of endTB trials for MDR TB in India; meeting with Dr. Michael Joseph Business Dev. Manager, **Brunel University London** to explore the possibility of collaboration at ICMR Hqrs., New Delhi; 134th meeting of **Health Ministry's Screening Committee (HMSC)**, wherein 38 new projects were considered for international collaboration/assistance; meeting with the officials from MP state and Ministry of Tribal Affairs in research on 'TB in Saharia'; meeting of Drafting committee for revised **ICMR-GCLP guidelines and National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM) meeting** of Anti-Infective expert group; meeting to discuss research projects to be undertaken to determine the etiology other than the known ones involved in **Acute Encephalitis Syndrome in Muzaffarpur, Bihar**; meeting on The Changing Landscape of **Sexually Transmitted infections HIV/AIDS and STI**.

- k) **Published six policy papers** on Enhancing Utilization of Adolescent Health; Involvement of Self Help Group (SHG) Women to improve health seeking behaviour of tribal women; Genetic testing (CFTR-mutations) in Indian men with congenital bilateral absence of vas deferens (CBAVD) before undergoing Intracytoplasmic Sperm Injection (ICSI); Genetic testing for non-obstructive azoospermia and oligozoospermia; Reducing TB burden-diagnosing Aspergillosis in Anti-Tubercular Treatment (ATT) non-responders; A model for addressing burden of snakebites in rural india through health system capacity building.
- l) **Dissemination of Findings of the National Impact evaluation of Antiretroviral treatment (ART) program (2012-17)** conducted at 396 centres across India.
- m) **Published High calorie menu with locally available foods for CM-SAM** across different regions of India.
- n) **Organized National Consultation** on "Effective Implementation of Measures for Control of Smokeless Tobacco (SLT) use in India" in Patna, Bihar.
- o) **Organized International Conference** on "Women's Reproductive Health: A Step Towards Improving Quality of Life" at Mumbai.
- p) **Organized a talk and book release on 'Gandhi and Health'** by Prof Mark Lindley at (AIIMS), New Delhi.
- q) **Organized training to NDRF trainees** across India on 'Management of Infectious Diseases during Disaster Management'.

- r) **Organized and imparted** training to MD students, PhD scholars, laboratory technicians, District/ Taluka health supervisors of PHCs/ CHCs/ UHCs on malaria microscopy, entomological aspects, Eco-epidemiology of Plasmodium vivax malaria, urban malaria, vector biology and control, field demonstration of sampling methods of vector mosquitoes (immature and adult).
- s) **Imparted Training and Certificate Course** on “Laboratory Assistant for Eco-Friendly Food Testing Laboratory” and Sensitization program for the stakeholders on “Occupational safety and health of construction labourers” at Ahmadabad.
- t) **Organized ‘viral Hepatitis E detection camp’** with A total of 138 blood samples testing and awareness generation program among the participants at Kolkata.
- u) **Organized social awareness program on prevention of Japanese Encephalitis** and Swachha Bharat Abhiyan among HDSS villages of Gorakhpur district by distributing info-graphics and Swachhata Abhiyan at Jabalpur.
- v) **Observed ‘World TB Day-2020’**, and organized TB awareness camps at Vellore and Chennai