



INDIAN COUNCIL OF MEDICAL RESEARCH

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(ICMR IN NEWS)

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December 21, 2018/The New Indian Express

DAK demands separate state of art cancer hospital in Kashmir

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Over eight lakh people died of cancer this year: Health Minister Anupriya Patel

December 21, 2018/The New Indian Express

NEW DELHI: An estimated 8,01,374 people died of cancer this year as compared to 7,66,348 deaths from the disease in 2017, Minister of State for Health, Anupriya Patel told the Lok Sabha Friday. Citing the **Indian Council of Medical Research's (ICMR)** cancer registry data report, she also said that an estimated 15,86,571 cases of cancer have so far been reported this year. According to the data submitted to the Parliament, the estimated incidence of cancer cases was 15,17,426 in 2017, 14,51,417 in 2016 and 13,88,397 in 2015. The estimated mortality of cancer cases in India was 73,2921 in 2016, 70,1007 in 2015 and 67,0541 in 2014, it said.

The ICMR's cancer registry data report titled 'Three-year Report of Population Based Cancer Registries: 2012-2014, Bengaluru, 2016' noted that the estimated number of incidence of cancer cases in the country was increasing, the minister told the Lok Sabha. She said the government was implementing the National Programme for Prevention and Control of Cancer, Diabetes, Cardiovascular Diseases and Stroke (NPCDCS) under the National Health Mission (NHM) to support the states and Union Territories for interventions up to district level.

The focus is on the three common cancers-- oral, breast and cervical, she said.

In addition, population-based prevention, control, screening and management for hypertension, diabetes and common cancers is also being implemented in more than 200 districts under NHM, Patel added.

DAK demands separate state of art cancer hospital in Kashmir

December 21, 2018/5Dariya News

Reacting to non-functioning of PET scanner in SKIMS, which has increased the miseries and suffering of cancer patients, Doctors Association Kashmir has demanded for separate state of art Cancer Hospital in Kashmir. According to a statement issued to KNO, DAK president Dr Suhail Naik said the lack of expertise and absence of radiation safety measures at the said hospital has led Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) to cancel the use and procurement license of Nuclear Medicine Department of SKIMS for radioactive isotopes. Dr Naik said that the number of cancer patients is increasing and as per **Indian Council Medical Research (ICMR)**, the burden of cancer in Kashmir has rose to 20 thousand cases per year. "The cancer is affecting people like an epidemic and situation is made worse by lack of separate cancer hospital in Kashmir. Today cancer is leading cause of death and it is imperative that treatment facilities should be available to all cancer patients in a separate state of art cancer institution," Dr Naik added. He said it is not possible to install and maintain the latest technologies and gadgetry without upgrading hospital infrastructure and Technical human resources. "We demand for a cancer hospital with refined onco-surgeons, determined oncologists, astute radiotherapists, infection disease specialists and Radiological interventionists.

[ICMR data reveals over 8 lakh Indians died of cancer in previous year](#)

December 21, 2018/Devdiscourse



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[Concern over rise in private clinics treating infertility: Kakoli Ghosh](#)

December 22, 2018/Business Standard

I thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak in favour of the Surrogacy (Regulation) Bill, 2016. This is a very important Bill, particularly with respect to women who have been exploited extensively in a certain part of Gujarat - I don't want to name it -and elsewhere in the country. ... (Interruptions)

Actually for surrogacy to take place, it has to be preceded In Vitro Fertilization (IVF) which has been compared to man's landing on moon because in IVF, a woman's ovaries are stimulated to give multiple number of oocytes, and then they are fertilised outside the laboratory by a person who sits in the laboratory for hours together, controlling the different parameters which support life like oxygen, carbon dioxide, humidity and all the other protein molecules which let the embryo grow and survive. ... (Interruptions) . This IVF has been so difficult that it took nearly 100 years before the birth of Louise Brown who could be announced by Professor Robert Edwards and Patrick Steptoe of England in 1979, followed shortly by Subhash Mukherjee giving birth to Kanu Priya of Durga in Bengal, followed in 1996-97 by the birth of Imran. Professor Robert Edwards had been given the Noble Prize for this IVF baby's birth, Louise Brown. Our very own **Indian Council of Medical Research** gave lifetime achievement to Dr. Ghosh Dastidar and Chakravarty for their work in India. So, only after IVF is done, is embryo available for transfer and surrogacy to follow.

[The Incidence of Hereditary Breast and Ovarian Cancer Higher in India Compared to Western Countries](#)

December 24, 2018/The Week

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NOIDA, India, December 24, 2018/PRNewswire/ --
Strand Life Sciences Organizes a Symposium in Noida to Talk About Their Experience of Screening More Than Thousand Patients of Breast and Ovarian Cancer

According to the data by the **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)**, India is projected to have 17.3 lakh new cases of cancer by 2020 and over 8.8 lakh patients are expected to die from the disease. Breast cancer which has the highest incidence of all cancers in females has also become frequent in a population younger than 50 years. At times, breast/ovarian cancer occur due to inherited genetic mutations (this is called Hereditary Breast and Ovarian Cancer syndrome). A symposium was organized at Hotel Park Ascent in Noida by Strand Life Sciences to bring together domain experts from gynaecology and IVF to discuss this trend of higher incidence of breast and ovarian cancer and associated screening for early diagnosis. Dr. Ramesh Hariharan, CEO of Strand Life Sciences, was present at this occasion and shared Strand's capabilities as a diagnostic lab to screen such cancers. With the acquisition of Quest Diagnostics' India business, Strand is now better placed to cater to the North Indian market as well. He added, "We bring cutting-edge diagnostics to India with world class quality at affordable prices. This will help us all in our fight against cancer."

Draft list of essential diagnostics to end malpractice

December 25, 2018/Deccan Herald

India has come out with its first Essential Diagnostic List (EDL) that would eventually allow the government to make a set of diagnostic tests, each with a price cap, to be available at every level of health care— from village to a district level hospital. When it is ready, such a list would help people access nearly 160 diagnostic tests at a uniform and possibly reduced price. Currently, the rates for diagnostic tests vary widely between different pathological laboratories, the same simple blood sugar test can cost anywhere between Rs 25 to Rs 250 depending on the laboratory. The essential diagnostic list is expected to put an end to such malpractices. About two weeks ago, the draft National Essential Diagnostic List, 2018 was released by the **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** seeking public comments. The draft is open for comments till January 31, 2019 after which ICMR and Central Drug Standards Control Organisation (CDSCO) would take necessary steps to finalise the draft. The final list would be notified by CDSCO. "It will push for making diagnostics available and affordable and government commitment to making these tests available. It's a common knowledge that the prices of tests is variable across different sectors," said Kamini Walia, a senior scientist at the ICMR, who led the team that prepared the EDL. The number of tests on the EDL varies between six at the village level to 163 at the district hospitals.

ICMR welcomes surrogacy bill passed in Lok Sabha

December 26, 2018/Drug Today

Dr R S Sharma, who heads the reproductive health division at **ICMR**, has said that to prevent exploitation of the surrogate mother, minimum criteria pertaining to age and medical conditions must be fulfilled by the surrogate mother, as has been specified in the Act. Highlighting the provisions of the Act, Dr Sharma said that the surrogate mother should be married with one child, the age of the surrogate mother should be between 25 and 35 years and the surrogate mother must be a 'close relative' of the intending couple. The Act also contains provisions to ensure that the intending couple do not abandon the child and an insurance cover for 16 months is proposed in the Act for the Surrogate Mother to take care of all her medical needs, emergency conditions/complications, said Dr Sharma, who was one

of the key figures behind ICMR's Assisted Reproductive Technology guidelines. The 228th report of the Law Commission of India strongly recommended prohibition of commercial surrogacy and allowing ethical altruistic surrogacy services by enacting a suitable legislation, the ICMR statement said.



India needs new initiatives to tackle cancer care

December 27, 2018/the Pharma Letter

Given the ability of Indian pharmaceutical companies to produce drugs at economical rates, the cost of HIV/AIDS treatment has fallen on a global scale to \$400 per year from \$12,000, according to a senior executive. Noting that a similar initiative was needed to tackle cancer, the executive said more cancer treatment units were needed in rural areas to fight the dreaded disease, reports The Pharma Letter's India correspondent. Hailing the country's 'spectacular' contribution to global healthcare, India's Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu said the cost of HIV/AIDS treatment has gone down globally due to the strength and dexterity of Indian firms. He said India has always taken a 'bold and exemplary' stand against 'blind patent' protection that benefit global pharmaceutical giants and asserted that providing essential drugs and medicines at cost-effective prices was the government's key focus. Quoting data from **the Indian Council of Medical Research**, executives said in 2016, the total number of new cancer cases was around 1.4 million, with the figure likely to reach nearly 1.7 million new cases by 2020. Some 736,000 people succumbed to the disease in 2016, with the figure estimated to shoot up to 880,000 by 2020. Two-thirds of advanced cancer cases are preventable, officials said, adding early detection and treatment were the need of the hour. Data also revealed that only 12.5% of patients come for treatment at an early stage of the disease, with breast cancer topping the list for women, and mouth cancer for men.

With regards,

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