



INDIAN COUNCIL OF MEDICAL RESEARCH

Department of Health Research – Ministry Health & Family Welfare
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(ICMR IN NEWS)

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Two more Medtech Zones being proposed: NITI Aayog member

December 15, 2018/The Hindu

India is poised to grow in the manufacturing of medical devices in the coming years and the A.P. Medtech Zone in Visakhapatnam will play a crucial role in the achievement, experts opined while speaking on the second day of the fourth Global Summit on Medical Devices jointly being organised by the WHO, A.P. government and the Centre. “Though a little is known about progress the pharma sector has achieved in India, the country is now all set to make a mark in the manufacturing of medical devices. We have got everything to find our stride. A.P. Medtech Zone will be the game changer,” **Balaram Bhargava, Director-General of Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** said.

Word of caution

He also sounded a word of caution on encouraging startups in the sector. “It is all right to encourage innovation and startups in the sector. But it should be strictly need-based. Some technologies have to be killed in the early stages if they are not required,” he opined. NITI Aayog member V.K Paul described A.P. Medtech Zone as ‘a jewel in the crown of India's development’. “Two more such zones are being proposed—one in the national capital region and another either in Maharashtra or Gujarat. But, A.P. Medtech Zone will play a major role in manufacturing of medical devices for sure,” he said. According to Mr. Paul, the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) had finalised 1,210 standards for 965 medical device products.

End of wrong treatment? ICMR's bid to provide quality diagnosis

December 15, 2018/Financial Express

Today, many people are unable to get tested for diseases because they cannot access diagnostic services while many others are incorrectly diagnosed, leading to a situation where they do not receive the required treatment or even the wrong treatment. In order to ensure quality diagnosis at all levels of healthcare facilities, the **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** has articulated a new list of essential diagnostics. The new draft is on the lines of the essential medicines list and is scientifically designed. The draft list, which has been put out for consultation, is based on the WHO's list of essential diagnostics for key areas like HIV and Hepatitis and takes into account the priority areas of non-communicable diseases and diseases prone to outbreaks such as dengue, Hindustan Times reported quoting senior ICMR scientist Dr Kamini Walia as saying. ICMR cannot fix the prices of the tests as it is not an implementing agency. If the draft diagnostic list figured into consideration by a committee which is in the process of developing a new national medicine list for 2018, the prices will be regulated under the Drug Price Control Order, 2013, according to Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO), India's apex drug regulator.

[ICMR releases draft of India's first essential diagnostics list](#)

December 15, 2018/ehealth



In a bid to ensure quality diagnostics at all level of healthcare facilities, the **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** has formulated draft of new National Essential Diagnostics List (NEDL). “The list is on the lines of the drug list. It is a scientifically designed list, which has been based on the World Health Organization’s list of essential diagnostics for key areas like HIV and hepatitis, but it also takes into account the priority areas of non-communicable diseases and diseases prone to outbreaks such as dengue,” Dr Kamini Walia, senior scientist at ICMR was quoted by Hindustan Times as saying. ICMR, the research body of the Union Health Ministry is responsible for the formulation, coordination and promotion of biomedical research in India. However, it is not the implementing authority and cannot fix prices of the test. “The list prepared by ICMR may be considered by the committee that is in the process of developing the new national medicine list for 2018. If the diagnostic list is included, the prices will be regulated under the Drug Price Control Order, 2013,” said a senior official from the country’s apex drug regulator Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO). The draft list which was prepared after two national consultation of stakeholder and a consultation with device manufacturers this year has been put out for public consultation. Many a tests have been included in the list including 130 general laboratory tests and 26 disease-specific tests, which includes tests for HIV, hepatitis, dengue, and malaria.

[Draft of India's first essential diagnostics list out, to ensure quality at all levels of healthcare facilities](#)

December 15, 2018/Hindustan Times

The **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** has formulated a new list of essential diagnostics on the lines of the essential medicines list, to ensure that quality diagnosis is provided at all levels of healthcare facilities.

“The list is on the lines of the drug list. It is a scientifically designed list, which has been based on the World Health Organization’s list of essential diagnostics for key areas like HIV and hepatitis, but it also takes into account the priority areas of non-communicable diseases and diseases prone to outbreaks such as dengue,” said Dr Kamini Walia, senior scientist at ICMR.

ICMR, the apex body in India for the formulation, coordination and promotion of biomedical research, however, is not the implementing authority and cannot fix prices of the test. “The list prepared by ICMR may be considered by the committee that is in the process of developing the new national medicine list for 2018. If the diagnostic list is included, the prices will be regulated under the Drug Price Control Order, 2013,” said a senior official from the country’s apex drug regulator Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO).

[Categorised tests to help patients](#)

December 16, 2018/Deccan Chronicle

The **Indian Council of Medical Research** is considering a national list of essential diagnostics so that people are not pushed into getting unwanted tests performed. The ICMR wants to draw up a list of tests for primary care and secondary care in hospitals. The ICMR has taken its cue from the World Health

Organisation which lists 58 basic tests. These include haemoglobin, blood glucose, complete blood count, urine dipstick which can be used for the detection and diagnosis of a wide range of common communicable and non-communicable diseases. For India, given its infection load, additional tests for tuberculosis, malaria, hepatitis B and C, human papillomavirus and syphilis are in a separate 'priority' category. Dr K.K. Aggarwal, president-elect of the Confederation of Medical Associations in Asia and Oceania, said the idea behind the list was to ensure that patients are only tested for 'priority infections' and secondary clinical evidence. "There will be strict guidelines which will have to be followed. There are 55 tests in this category," Dr Aggarwal said.



Latest Methods to Solve Malnutrition: Vice President

December 17,, 2018/Krishijagran.com

The Vice President of India, Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu has called upon scientists, policy makers and planners to adopt new strategies to solve the problem of Malnutrition. It is considered as a looming threat to our development.

Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu was addressing the valedictory session of the International Conference on Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals (ECDs), organized to mark the completion of centenary celebrations of National Institute of Nutrition (NIN), in Hyderabad. The Vice President talks about the difficulty in bringing about a change in age-old dietary habits of the people and suggested the involvement of local community at the grass roots to effectively convey the message for consumption of nutritious food. He called upon the nutrition scientists to accord the highest priority to eliminating the triple burden of malnutrition comprising under-nutrition, over-nutrition and micronutrients deficiencies (hidden hunger), the Vice President wanted NIN to align its research with the National Nutrition Mission to improve the nutritional indicators of children, pregnant women and lactating women. He asked NIN to look at newer vistas to make India a healthy nation and recalled renowned scientist Prof. M.S. Swaminathan's suggestion that India needs to shift its focus from food security to nutrition security and eradicate three kinds of hunger-protein hunger (caused by protein deficiency), calorie hunger (caused by calories deficiency) and hidden hunger (caused by deficiency of micronutrients).

The Vice President informed the scientists to work towards achieving Sustainable Development Goals, which aim to end all forms of hunger and malnutrition by 2030. He even urged scientists to create awareness among the people on the health hazards due to extensive use of pesticides in agriculture.

The other dignitaries present on the occasion were- The Secretary, Department of Health Research, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Govt. of India, Prof. **(Dr.) Balram Bhargava**, the Organizing Secretary & Coordinator, Dr. J. Padmaja, the Director, NIN, Hyderabad, Dr. Hemalatha.

ICMR lists essential diagnostics list for healthcare facilities

December 18, 2018/Greater Kashmir

In order to ensure delivery of quality healthcare at all levels and optimum utilisation of healthcare human resource, **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** has devised first list of essential diagnostic tests and medicines, a document that aims to guide union and state health ministries, including J&K in devising better peripheral healthcare policies. The list has been devised based on World Health Organization's guidelines and is expect to act as a checklist for policy

makers, especially at a time when union ministry is in the process of updating essential drug list. The central drugs standards and controls organisation may include diagnostics under essential drug list, which in turn will help in price regulation of these tests. The development holds significance for health sector of J&K, where essential drugs list for various levels of health facilities is in a fluid state and termed as an “evolving list”. The ICMR list may also help government weed out unnecessary equipment from proposals being currently considered for approval by state governments. The list does not include tests for tertiary care hospitals but there is an extensive coverage of basic tests that can be performed at primary health center level and by village health workers. These include blood sugar monitoring, blood sugar for diabetes, urine albumin for kidney disease and others.



IIT Kharagpur researchers develop kit to help stop smoking

December 19, 2018/The New Indian Express

KOLKATA: Researchers at IIT Kharagpur (IIT KGP) have developed a prototype of a sensor-based tracking kit to monitor daily activities while a smartphone-based application is under development which will analyse the tracking kit data to recognise addictive and depressive behaviour, an official said on Tuesday. The prototype developed by a team led by Ram Babu Roy at IIT Kharagpur's Rajendra Mishra School of Engineering Entrepreneurship (RMSoEE), is initially focused on smoking habits, a statement said. According to the **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)**, new cancer cases or its incidence in India are estimated to grow 25 per cent by 2020 and the National Mental Health Survey (NMHS) 2015-16 reported that every sixth person in India needs mental health intervention of some sort, the statement said. "The scenario led us to explore the most commonly used gadget and develop the much-required technology which can be used for providing interventions in near real-time via mobile app to promote cessation from addictive habits," Saurabh Singh Thakur, a research scholar of IIT KGP RMSoEE said. The technology can track body movements and predict daily functions such as eating or drinking water or behavioural tendencies such as smoking or consumption of alcohol. It can also monitor call, message logs, Internet usage and alert the user regarding the same. Prolonged usage data would indicate poor sleeping habits thus predicting possible health hazards.

AIIMS to study impact of radiation, air pollution on eyes of Delhiites

December 19, 2018/The New Indian Express

NEW DELHI: A survey to study the impact of air pollution and ultraviolet radiation exposure on the health of eyes of urban population of Delhi will be conducted by the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) from January next year. A similar survey, conducted between 2010-2015 among the rural population in Gurugram had found high prevalence of dry eye and conjunctivitis, after which the need was felt to expand the exercise to the urban population of the National Capital, along with two other states. The premier institute will be screening approximately 12,000 people of the National Capital under the exercise. "We will be taking into account primary pollutants like PM 2.5 (Particulate Matter) and PM 10, aerosol, NO₂ (Nitrogen Dioxide), SO₂ (Sulphur Dioxide), CO (Carbon Monoxide) along with sun exposure and also look at geographical location and local individual factors," said Dr Radhika Tandon, Professor of Ophthalmology, AIIMS.

While PM 2.5 and PM 10 are PM 2 are finest pollutants capable of making inroads into human lungs and blood tissues, aerosols, a subset of air pollution, are tiny atmospheric particles which are suspension of fine solid particles or liquid droplets, in air. The study, funded by **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)**, is a multicentre collaborative study on the impact of environmental changes and ultraviolet ray exposure on ocular health for Delhi, Guwahati for north eastern region and Hyderabad for coastal areas (Prakasam), by Dr RP Centre for Ophthalmic Sciences, AIIMS.

After US travel alert on Zika, govt says Jaipur safe

December 20, 2018/The Times of India

JAIPUR: Close on the heels of the Centre for Disease Control and Prevention, a government agency of the US, issuing a travel advisory for avoiding non-essential travel especially for pregnant women to Rajasthan due to spread of Zika, state health authorities claimed that Jaipur is safe and there is no scare of Zika. The advisory from the US has been issued at a time **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** have already confirmed that pregnant women in their first trimester who tested positive for Zika in Jaipur do not have risk of giving birth to children with microcephaly. According to the advisory, pregnant women should not travel to areas with risk of Zika because Zika infection during pregnancy can cause serious birth defects. However, ICMR and National Institute of Virology (NIV), Pune, had conducted advanced molecular studies of Zika virus strains, carried out through Next Generation Sequencing suggest that the known mutations linked to fetal microcephaly and high transmissibility of Zika virus in Aedes mosquitoes are not present in the current Zika virus strain that has affected Rajasthan. Health department officials claimed that there is no need to worry for those who want to travel to Rajasthan including Jaipur. The advisory was issued December 13 by the CDC.

With regards,

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