



INDIAN COUNCIL OF MEDICAL RESEARCH

Department of Health Research – Ministry Health & Family Welfare
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Cancer cases up 16% in last 7 years

November 17, 2018/Sunday Guardian Live

Blood samples of people infected with Zika virus in Bhopal sent to NIV-Pune

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Quality healthcare possible even without docs: WHO Dy Director Dr Soumya Swaminathan

November 18,2018/The New Indian Express

ICMR to conduct trials of indigenously developed Zika vaccine

November 18, 2018/The Economic Times

Indian Council for Medical Research to start Zika vaccine trials

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Telangana must guard against a future wave of NCDs

November 19,2018/Telangana Today

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November 21, 2018/The Times of India

ICMR releases new antimicrobial stewardship guidelines, calls for judicious use of antibiotics

November 20,2018/Pharmabiz.com

Cancer cases up 16% in last 7 years

November 17, 2018/Sunday Guardian Live

Cancer seems to have spread its tentacles further in the last seven years as the number of new cases has increased by 16% since 2012, according to Indian Council of Medical Research's National Institute of Cancer Prevention and Research (ICMR-NICPR). "The total number of new cancer cases has gone up from around 10 lakh in 2012 to more than 11.5 lakh in 2018, an increase of about 16%," revealed the Director of the institute Prof Ravi Mehrotra while speaking at Globocan 2018, a workshop on cancer organised in IMRC premises here on Wednesday. According to the data made available at the workshop, it is the cases of lip and oral cancer that have more than doubled since 2012, mostly due to increased consumption of alcohol and tobacco products. While lip and oral cancer cases have registered a sharp 114.2% rise, the number of cancer-related deaths has witnessed a 12.1% increase to 7,84,832 in 2018. Speaking to the media, **Director-General of ICMR Prof Balram Bhargava** said use of smokeless tobacco (SLT) causes oral cancer with high chance of heart-related diseases. "SLT causes oral cancer, but a large population in India still consumes it. There are high chances of heart diseases and stroke due to smokeless tobacco," he explained.

Blood samples of people infected with Zika virus in Bhopal sent to NIV-Pune

November 17, 2018/Financial Express

AIIMS-Bhopal has sent blood samples of people found positive for Zika virus in Madhya Pradesh to National Institute of Virology (NIV), Pune, to ascertain whether the virus strain is the same as the one that infected patients in Jaipur, an **ICMR** official said Saturday. If the strain is found to be the same as the one detected in Jaipur, it will be established that the virus was transported by someone who travelled from Jaipur to Madhya Pradesh, the official said. Also, an analysis of Zika virus strains collected from Jaipur, the centre of the latest outbreak of the disease in north India, has suggested they do not have the known mutations linked to foetal microcephaly, a serious birth defect in newborns delivered by infected mothers, according to the Health Ministry. The number of Zika cases has mounted to 127 in Madhya Pradesh, including the death of two people who had tested positive for the virus. The deceased — an 18-year-old man and a 23-year-old woman — were suffering from the infection and other "serious" diseases. Therefore, it cannot be said that they died due to Zika, officials had clarified. Of the 127 people, 40 are pregnant women, the official said. People have tested positive for Zika virus in seven districts of Madhya Pradesh. This includes 44 cases reported from Bhopal, 20 from Sehore, 29 from Vidisha, two each from Sagar and Hoshangabad, and one each from Narsinghpur and Raisen. A central team is reviewing the situation and assisting the Madhya Pradesh government to replicate measures and the action plan implemented in Jaipur and Ahmedabad to contain the disease, the ICMR official said.

Quality healthcare possible even without docs: WHO Dy Director Dr Soumya Swaminathan

November 18, 2018/The New Indian Express

Dr Soumya Swaminathan, the deputy director of the World Health Organisation, is upbeat about the Indian government's Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana scheme, which aims to provide medical insurance of up to ₹5 lakh per poor family each year. Swaminathan, an Indian paediatrician and clinical scientist who joined the WHO last year, also believes that the private sector plays an important role in healthcare delivery in India, but needs stricter regulation. In an interview to Sumi Sukanya Dutta, Swaminathan spoke on a host of issues ranging from air pollution plaguing north India to the rising of Indian women against sexual harassment at workplace. "PMJAY is an excellent scheme. It is high time that India made serious efforts to cover the entire population with high quality healthcare, especially for those who cannot afford to pay the rates in private sector. We know that in India, 65-70% healthcare expenditure is out-of-pocket and that affects the poor the most; so, financial risk protection is a good idea," she said. As for the #MeToo movement against men who harass women in the workplace, she felt that though only a minority has spoken up so far, "it's a critical first step at setting things right. Men should feel they are accountable and that this kind of behaviour cannot be accepted. Dr Soumya Swaminathan, an Indian paediatrician and clinical scientist, joined the World Health Organisation (WHO) as its deputy director-general (programme) last year. Prior to that, she served as secretary of the department of health research, Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, and director general of the **Indian Council of Medical Research**. On the sidelines of the second annual Women Leaders in Global Health Conference 2018 in London, organised by the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, Dr Swaminathan spoke to Sumi Sukanya Dutta on a host of issues ranging from air pollution plaguing north India to the rising of women against sexual harassment at workplaces.

ICMR to conduct trials of indigenously developed Zika vaccine

November 18, 2018/The Economic Times

The **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** will soon undertake trials of the indigenously developed vaccine against Zika virus, cases of which have been reported in Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Gujarat. The ICMR will undertake phase-II trial of the vaccine to establish the efficacy and safety of the vaccine along with its adverse effects, a senior official said. Vaccines manufacturer, Hyderabad-based Bharat Biotech, has developed a vaccine, which they claim will provide protection against infection caused by an Asian Zika virus strain as well as by the African Zika virus strain, the official said. "The company had developed the vaccine around two years ago. At that time we did not have an outbreak of Zika in India as it was only restricted to Latin America. "Zika virus is spread to people primarily through the bite of an infected Aedes species mosquito and also there is a breakout in some states. Vector control is one of the most challenging work. Thus the vaccine, if its efficacy is proved, is a better strategy," the official said. The process for regulatory approvals to carry out the trial will be initiated soon, he informed.

[Indian Council for Medical Research to start Zika vaccine trials](#)

November 19, 2018/The New Indian Express



NEW DELHI: India's top health research body — **Indian Council for Medical Research** — is set to start trials of the indigenously developed vaccine against Zika virus, cases of which have been reported in Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Gujarat. The ICMR will undertake a phase-II trial of the vaccine to establish its efficacy and safety along with its side effects, if any, said an official in the agency under the Union Ministry for Health and Family Welfare. Hyderabad-based Bharat Biotech has developed the vaccine, which they claim will provide protection against infection caused by the Asian as well as the African Zika virus strain, the official said. “The company had developed the vaccine around two years ago. At that time, the Zika outbreak was only limited to Latin America and no cases were reported in India,” the official said. “Zika virus affects people primarily through the bite of an infected Aedes species mosquito. An outbreak has been reported in some states. Vector control is a challenging job. Hence, treatment through a vaccine is the best way to deal with this outbreak,” the official said, the process for regulatory approvals to carry out the trial will be initiated soon.

[Trials of indigenously developed Zika vaccine to be conducted soon](#)

November 19, 2018/Hindustan Times

The **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** will soon undertake trials of the indigenously developed vaccine against Zika virus, cases of which have been reported in Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Gujarat. The ICMR will undertake phase-II trial of the vaccine to establish the efficacy and safety of the vaccine along with its adverse effects, a senior official said, Vaccines manufacturer, Hyderabad-based Bharat Biotech, has developed a vaccine, which they claim will provide protection against infection caused by an Asian Zika virus strain as well as by the African Zika virus strain, the official said. “The company had developed the vaccine around two years ago. At that time we did not have an outbreak of Zika in India as it was only restricted to Latin America. “Zika virus is spread to people primarily through the bite of an infected Aedes species mosquito and also there is a breakout in some states. Vector control is one of the most challenging work. Thus the vaccine, if its efficacy is proved, is a better strategy,” the official said.

The process for regulatory approvals to carry out the trial will be initiated soon, he informed. “Yes, we are in dialogue with Bharat Biotech, but the approval is not in place yet. It has to go through the drug controller too. In any case, the trial will happen only next year. This year, the cases are almost over,” said Dr Balram Bhargava, director general of Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR).

[Telangana must guard against a future wave of NCDs](#)

November 19,2018/Telangana Today

The life expectancy of individuals in Telangana has improved in the last quarter of a century and is expected to do so in the coming two decades. Thanks to the ever improving Socio-Demographic Index (SDI), people are expected to live more, which will also lead to rise in burden of diseases. In the next two decades, due to better life expectancy, ailments related to heart, kidney and brain strokes are expected to become the top three medical conditions in India. The rise is also expected to happen in Indian States including Telangana, which will test the preparedness and planning of authorities at State and national level.

Health forecasts and alternative future scenarios do go a long way in long-term planning and keeping this in mind, a group of researchers from several countries including India had developed a forecasting mathematical model. But along with improved life expectancy, the study said that the burden of Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs), namely those related to heart kidney and respiratory disorders, is set to rise. In 1990, the life expectancy of women and men was close to 60 years and by 2016, life expectancy of women in Telangana improved to 73 years and for men it increased to 69 years, according to **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)**.

ICMR, Delhi releases Antimicrobial Stewardship Guidelines

November 19, 2018/Express Healthcare

World Antibiotic Awareness Week 2018 is observed every year in November to encourage healthy practices among the general public, health workers and policy makers to avoid emergence and spread of antibiotic resistance. The **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)**, Delhi released Antimicrobial Stewardship Guidelines, to mark the World Antibiotic Awareness Week. The aim of the guideline is to provide guidance to Indian hospitals to set up structure and process of Antimicrobial Stewardship Programs (AMSP). The audience for this document is hospital administrators and clinicians. With very few new antibiotics in the pipeline, it is important to use the existing drugs judiciously. Since inappropriate use of antibiotics is rampant in India, there is an urgent need to improve antibiotic use in hospitals, which can be achieved through implementation of good AMS Programs. AMS Programs have been found helpful in improving the quality of patient care and safety through increasing the frequency of correct prescribing for therapy and prophylaxis, reducing treatment failures and increased infection cure rates. Unfortunately, most of hospitals in India lack structure and process of AMSP. Recognising the importance to create AMSP structures in health care institutions in the country, ICMR had initiated AMSP activities by developing AMSP curriculum and conducting AMSP training workshops. The AMSP guidelines being released today provide guidance to administrators on setting up structure and processes of AMSP in their healthcare institutions, discusses essential elements of antimicrobial stewardship and diagnostic stewardship and provides information on tools that can be used to measure the progress.

ICMR to conduct trials of indigenously developed Zika vaccine

November 19, 2018/Health World

NEW DELHI: The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) will soon undertake trials of the indigenously developed vaccine against Zikavirus, cases of which have been reported in Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Gujarat. The ICMR will undertake phase-II trial of the vaccine to establish the efficacy and safety of the vaccine along with its adverse effects, a senior official said. Vaccines manufacturer, Hyderabad-based Bharat Biotech, has developed a vaccine, which they claim will provide protection against infection caused by an Asian Zika virus strain as well as by the African Zika virus strain, the official said. "The company had developed the vaccine around two years ago. At that time we did not have an outbreak of Zika in India as it was only restricted to Latin America. "Zika virus is spread to people primarily through the bite of an infected Aedes species mosquito and also there is a breakout in some states. Vector control is one of the most challenging work. Thus

the vaccine, if its efficacy is proved, is a better strategy," the official said. The process for regulatory approvals to carry out the trial will be initiated soon, he informed.



[ICMR will soon conduct trials of indigenously developed Zika vaccine](#)

November 19, 2018/The Health site

Many Zika virus cases have been reported in Rajasthan, Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh so far, thus the **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** will soon undertake trials of the indigenously developed vaccine against the deadly virus. According to the Hindustan Times report, a senior official reportedly said that to establish the efficacy and safety of the vaccine along with its adverse effects the ICMR will undertake a phase-II trial of the vaccine. The Hyderabad-based Bharat Biotech, vaccines manufacturer has developed a vaccine, which they claim will provide protection against infection caused by an Asian Zika virus strain as well as by the African Zika virus strain, the official said. Reportedly, the official also said that the company had developed the vaccine around two years ago. At that time they did not have an outbreak of Zika in India as it was only restricted to Latin America. Zika virus is spread to people primarily through the bite of an infected Aedes species mosquito and also there is a breakout in some states. Vector control is one of the most challenging work. Thus the vaccine, if its efficacy is proved, is a better strategy. He also informed that the process for regulatory approvals to carry out the trial will be initiated soon.

[ICMR to Undertake Trials of Indigenously Developed Zika Vaccine](#)

November 19,2018/Yahoo News

The **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** will soon undertake trials of the indigenously developed vaccine against Zika virus, cases of which have been reported in Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Gujarat. The ICMR will undertake phase-II trial of the vaccine to establish the efficacy and safety of the vaccine along with its adverse effects, a senior official said. Vaccines manufacturer, Hyderabad-based Bharat Biotech, has developed a vaccine, which they claim will provide protection against infection caused by an Asian Zika virus strain as well as by the African Zika virus strain, the official said. "The company had developed the vaccine around two years ago. At that time we did not have an outbreak of Zika in India as it was only restricted to Latin America. "Zika virus is spread to people primarily through the bite of an infected Aedes species mosquito and also there is a breakout in some states. Vector control is one of the most challenging work. Thus the vaccine, if its efficacy is proved, is a better strategy," the official said. The process for regulatory approvals to carry out the trial will be initiated soon, he informed.

[Indian Council of Medical Research set to start trials of indigenously developed Zika vaccine](#)

November 20, 2018/Timesnownews.com

New Delhi: The **Indian Council for Medical Research** will soon begin the trials of the indigenously developed vaccine against Zika virus, say reports. Cases of Zika virus, a mosquito-borne flavivirus, have been reported in some states of India, including Rajasthan, Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh. According to a senior official, India's top health research body will undertake the phase-II trial to determine the

efficacy and safety of the vaccine along with its adverse effects. Hyderabad-based Bharat Biotech, which has developed the vaccine, claims that the vaccine can help protect against infection caused by an Asian Zika virus strain as well as by the African Zika virus strain, the official said. The official added that the company had developed the vaccine around two years ago when the Zika outbreak was only limited to Latin America and no cases were reported in India. “Zika virus affects people primarily through the bite of an infected Aedes species mosquito. An outbreak has been reported in some states. Vector control is a challenging job. Hence, treatment through a vaccine is the best way to deal with this outbreak,” the official said, adding the process for regulatory approvals to carry out the trial will be initiated soon. According to the officials, while two persons, who tested positive for the Zika virus, died in Madhya Pradesh’s Bhopal district, the number of people infected with the virus crossed 120 people, out of which 40 are pregnant women. Rajasthan reported 159 cases of Zika infections this year. Zika is no longer a Public Health Emergency of International Concern under the WHO notification, however, the disease is under surveillance of the Union Health Ministry.

[ICMR releases new antimicrobial stewardship guidelines, calls for judicious use of antibiotics](#)

November 20, 2018/Pharmabiz.com

The **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** has released Antimicrobial Stewardship Guidelines to mark the World Antibiotic Awareness Week 2018, which is observed every year in November to encourage healthy practices among the general public, health workers and policy makers to avoid emergence and spread of antibiotic resistance. The aim of the guideline is to provide guidance to Indian hospitals to set up structure and process of antimicrobial stewardship programmes (AMSP). The audience for this document is hospital administrators and clinicians. “With very few new antibiotics in the pipeline, it is important to use the existing drugs judiciously. Since inappropriate use of antibiotics is rampant in India, there is an urgent need to improve antibiotic use in hospitals, which can be achieved through implementation of good AMS programmes. AMS programmes have been found helpful in improving the quality of patient care and safety through increasing the frequency of correct therapy and prophylaxis, reducing treatment failures and increased infection cure rates,” the ICMR said in a statement.

[Zika causing microcephaly not found in Jaipur: ICMR](#)

November 21, 2018/The Times of India

Pregnant women in their first trimester, who were tested positive for Zika in Jaipur, can now breathe a huge sigh of relief. It has been confirmed by **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** that Zika virus strain that causes microcephaly is not found in the state. However, health officials will remain vigilant of the possibility of adverse pregnancy outcomes, in women exposed to Zika virus, as the strain may mutate in future. Microcephaly is a condition where a baby born to a mother infected with Zika virus is with abnormal smallness of the head and incomplete brain development. There were 47 pregnant women in their first trimester, who were tested positive for Zika from September 22 to October 29 in Jaipur. There were apprehensions and fear among health authorities that infants born to pregnant women who were tested positive for Zika in first trimester, were at higher risk of having microcephaly. In first trimester, organs such as brain

of a fetus develop. Zika virus may affect brain development of fetus. In some countries, children born to Zika-affected pregnant women have microcephaly.



ICMR releases guidelines for antibiotics' judicious use

November 21, 2018/The Hindu

To ensure judicious use of antibiotics in healthcare facilities, the **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** released on November 20, Antimicrobial Stewardship Guidelines to advise hospitals in setting up Antimicrobial Stewardship Programmes (AMSP) for the purpose. Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is a major public health challenge, and with very few new antibiotics in the pipeline, it is important to use the existing drugs judiciously. Since inappropriate use of antibiotics is rampant in India, there is an urgent need to improve antibiotic use in hospitals, which can be achieved through implementation of good AMS programmes, Director General of the ICMR Dr Balram Bhargava said.

These guidelines provide guidance for setting up structure and processes of Antimicrobial Stewardship Programmes in healthcare institutions. It will help discuss essential elements of antimicrobial stewardship, diagnostic stewardship besides providing information on tools that can be used to measure progress.

With regards,

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