



INDIAN COUNCIL OF MEDICAL RESEARCH

Department of Health Research – Ministry Health & Family Welfare
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November 16, 2018/The Pioneer



Need to ensure emergency medicine, universal health coverage: ICMR Chief

November 2, 2018/Medical Dialogues

Noida (UP): Noting that India has done well in generic pharmaceuticals, and ensured that all treatments are available within the country, a senior Union Health Ministry official said Thursday the need was now to ensure emergency medicine and universal health coverage. Secretary to the Department of Health Research in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, **Balram Bhargava**, averred India has witnessed phenomenal growth in several fields, including Information and Technology, Space, Nuclear and farming sectors. He said the Green Revolution has been among the most significant of these which has turned the country from being a food grains importer to exporter.

“Not only that, we have done phenomenally well in pharmaceuticals. 50 per cent of the generic drugs in the world are of Indian origin, we have also done well in medical sciences and our generation has ensured that no one has to go out of this country for any treatment. It is all available in this country,” he said.

Bhargava was speaking here at the convocation event of the Amity University, which conferred honorary doctorate degrees on him and Shashank Sharad Kale, Head of Department (Neurosurgery), AIIMS and Vaidya Devendra Triguna, a former honorary physician to the President of India Thursday. “Having said that we still have two major frontiers – as far as health care is concerned – and they are emergency medicine and universal health coverage, which is being tackled by the Prime Minister in the Ayushman Bharat Programme. The programme has two pillars of developing the wellness centres – 150,000 and the insurance scheme for 10 crore families, which is nearly half the population of India for Rs five lakh every year,” Bhargava said.

PureCircle looks to expand India footprint, but will the country embrace stevia?

November 2, 2018/CNBC TV18

Even the most conscious of weight-watchers find themselves on a slippery slope during Diwali as sugary treats and drinks weaken their resolve. But if there's one company that wants people to continue to indulge their sweet tooth but without the calories, it is PureCircle - the world's largest producer and innovator of stevia, a naturally sweet plant first discovered in Paraguay 200 years ago. Promising 250-300 times the sweetness of sugar minus the calories, and championing itself as a healthier, natural alternative to artificial sweeteners, PureCircle is pitching stevia as India's answer to its chronic ill-health caused by a diet high in salt, sugar and fat, earning the country the infamous reputation of being “the diabetic capital of the world”. A collaborative report by the **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)**, the Public Health Foundation of India (PHFI), Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME) titled ‘India: Health of the Nation’s States — The India State-Level Disease Burden Initiative’ states 72 million Indians suffer from Type-2 diabetes today, a figure expected to almost double to 134 million by 2025 if current dietary trends continue.



Rajasthan: Abnormal-head-causing Zika Virus not found

November 3,2018/Drug Today

Even so, high surveillance is required so that no possibility of such a case may occur in future. Pune's **ICMR**-National Institute of Virology, has sequenced five Zika virus strains collected at different time points of the Jaipur outbreak. Advanced molecular studies of Zika virus strains, carried out by ICMR-NIV, Pune, reveals that known mutations linked to fetal microcephaly (abnormal smallness of the head, a congenital condition associated with incomplete brain development in babies) and high transmissibility of Zika virus in Aedes mosquitoes, are not present in the current Zika virus. A health ministry press release states that the government is still maintaining high vigil against the possibility of adverse pregnancy outcomes in women exposed to this deadly virus because the strain may mutate in future or some other unknown/host factors may play a role in microcephaly /other birth defects. So far, round 2000 samples have been tested for Zika virus positivity, of which 159 positive cases have been confirmed.

What ails our youth? Stress, hypertension and less physical activity

November 3,2018/The Times of India

A recent pan-India study by the **ICMR**, Public Health Foundation of India and Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation revealed a rather gloomy picture of the state's health. It has found that 13.9% of the youth in Karnataka (15-39 years) lost their lives due to cardiovascular diseases. Expert worry that stress, less physical activity and lifestyle diseases are the reason for many of these deaths. "It is distressing to note that it is increasingly affecting younger adults in our country. Being more of a lifestyle disease, smoking and increased stress levels are the culprits for deaths among the young. Getting annual health check-up is no guarantee against such events, unless you follow it up with healthy lifestyle changes. I urge everyone to adopt healthy lifestyle habits and ensure good control of blood pressure, blood sugar and cholesterol levels. Most importantly, say 'no' to smoking and take up healthy habits like meditation," says Dr S Guruprasad, consultant interventional cardiologist at a city hospital.

Pune-based NIV succeeds in isolating zika virus, says ICMR director

November 3,2018/Hindustan Times

Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) director, Dr Balram Bhargava said on Friday that the Pune-based National Institute of Virology has successfully isolated the Zika virus for the very first time. "For the very first time in the country, we were able to isolate the virus which has been done by National institute of Virology (NIV). Also, we have done the full genome sequence and have found out that mutations associated with microcephaly (abnormal smallness of head) in babies born from zika-infected mothers in Brazil is not responsible for the same condition here," Dr Bhargava said over the telephone from Delhi. ICMR's national director (epidemiology) and head of all 13 institutes, including NIV, Dr RR Gangakhedkar said, two confirmed Zika cases have been identified in Bhopal. He said even if Zika comes to Maharashtra, there is no need to fear as the threat of microcephaly has been ruled out. Dr Bhargava said while research was continuing on this strain, it was not as threatening as the Brazilian Zika virus. "As of now we are still studying but yes we can say it is less threatening," he said.



[Rajasthan Zika strain not linked to microcephaly](#)

November 3,2018/The Hindu

The Union Health Ministry said on Saturday that advanced molecular studies suggest that the Zika virus strain affecting patients in Rajasthan does not contain the known mutations linked to foetal microcephaly and high transmissibility of the virus in Aedes mosquitoes. The release cited studies of the Rajasthan Zika virus strains, carried out by **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)**-National Institute of Virology (NIV), Pune, through Next Generation Sequencing. Strict vigil continues The release added that government is maintaining a strict vigil given the possibility of adverse pregnancy outcomes in women exposed to the Zika virus as the strain may mutate in future or some other unknown/host factors may play a role in microcephaly /other birth defects. The release said the Health Ministry is reviewing the situation on a daily basis. Around 2,000 samples were tested for Zika virus positivity, of which 159 positive cases have been confirmed.

[Zika Virus Strain That Causes Microcephaly Not Found In Rajasthan](#)

November 4,2018/Norht East today

Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) under Department of Health Research is in the forefront of advanced research in virology and the ICMR-National Institute of Virology (NIV) is at par with leading scientific establishments across the world. ICMR-NIV, Pune has sequenced 5 Zika virus strains collected at different time points of the Jaipur outbreak. 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. However, the Government is maintaining a high vigil of the possibility of adverse pregnancy outcomes in women exposed to Zika virus as the strain may mutate in future or some other unknown/host factors may play a role in microcephaly /other birth defects. The Health Ministry is reviewing the situation on a daily basis. Around 2000 samples were tested for Zika virus positivity, of which 159 positive cases have been confirmed. Adequate numbers of testing kits have been provided to the Viral Research and Diagnostic Laboratories.

[After Jaipur, Zika virus infects 8 in Bhopal in 4 days](#)

November 5,2018/Drug Today

The first case of the virus was detected on November 1, 2018. As on November 4, 2018, the number of patients of the virus has reached eight. It is suspected that this number may increase with the screening of more people. The reports of the deadly virus in all eight patients have been confirmed by doctors of Bhopal-AIIMS. A state health official has informed that till date fifty people have been tested for Zika virus. He has assured that the situation is under control and all preventive measures at micro level have been implemented. Like dengue, the symptoms of Zika virus include fever, skin rashes, conjunctivitis, muscle and joint pain and headache. Pregnant women are said to be more at high risk of Zika virus and it may affect the development of the fetus. However, **ICMR** scientists have ruled out any affect of this virus on pregnant women in Rajasthan where around 159 patients have been tested positive for Zika virus. For protection from Zika virus, the doctors advise people to avoid places where the the virus is endemic. Using mosquito repellent containing DEET, wearing long sleeves and

pants, spraying clothes (but not yourself) with permethrin-containing compounds and avoiding areas with high concentration of mosquitoes are some preventive steps to avoid the Zika virus.



PU budget: Centre-sponsored schemes share reduced by half

November 7,2018/The Tribune

The share of Centre-sponsored plans and schemes has reduced by 49.1 per cent in the Panjab University (PU) budget for 2019-20.

According to the PU budget, which will be tabled before the Board of Finance (BoF) on November 13, the contribution of the Central Government-sponsored plans and schemes is Rs 83.31 crore in revised estimates for 2018-19, while it reduces to Rs 42.44 crore for 2019-20. Under the UGC schemes, the contribution has dipped from Rs 9.42 crore in 2018-19 to Rs 3.93 crore in 2019-20 (a dip of 58.3 per cent). Some schemes under 12th Plan, will end on March 31, 2019 For the projects funded by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research schemes, the All India Council of Technical Education, Department of Science and Technology/Bio-Technology and **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)**, the contribution will come down from Rs 34.73 crore in 2018-19 to Rs 21.87 crore in 2019-20. The contribution to scholarships is down from Rs 5.7 crore in 2018-19 to Rs 2.7 crore in 2019-20. The subsidy for attending educational conferences for university teachers has also come down to Rs 18 lakh in 2019-20 from Rs 24 lakh in 2018-19.

What the numbers tell

November 10,2018/The Hindu

In Kerala, according to the data of the Trivandrum Stroke Registry at the SCTIMST, the annual incidence of stroke is between 120-140 per 1 lakh population. The mortality rate is approximately 25%. About 40-50% of patients will have moderate to severe disability for life. The India State-level Disease Burden Initiative, a joint initiative of the Ministry of Health, **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)**, Public Health Foundation of India (PHFI), and various stakeholders, recently published a comprehensive analysis of NCDs for every State, as part of the Global Burden of Disease Study 1990-2016. The results were published as a series in The Lancet Global Health. In India, the estimated incidence is about 119-145/100,000 population. The study shows that between 1990 and 2016, there has been an increase by 2-3 times in stroke prevalence in the country, from 2.8 million in 1990 to 6.5 million in 2016. Stroke contributed to 7.1% of total deaths in 2016.

National body set up to study rare form of diabetes

November 10,2018/The Hindu

Monogenic Diabetes is misdiagnosed in many cases.

A National Monogenic Diabetes Study Group has been formed to identify cases of monogenic diabetes across the country. Supported by the **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)**, the Madras Diabetes Research Foundation (MDRF) and Dr. Mohan's Diabetes Specialities Centre (DMDSC) will be the national coordinating centre for the study group.

Genetic mutation

Monogenic diabetes is a group of disorders where mutation of a single gene causes diabetes; the three commonest forms being - Maturity Onset Diabetes of the Young (MODY), Neonatal Diabetes Mellitus (NDM) and Congenital Hypoglycaemia, according to



V. Mohan, chairman, DMDSC. “ICMR already has a young diabetics registry. As an off-shoot, a National Monogenic Diabetes Study Group has been formed with MDRF as the nodal centre. As of now, 33 doctors from across the country are ready to collaborate for this initiative,” he told reporters on Saturday.

[ICMR trial shows Yoga works in cardiac rehabilitation](#)

November 11,2018/Newsline

After the largest multi-centre randomised trial; researchers hope Yoga will be used more in low and middle income countries The largest ever multi-centre randomised trial on cardiac rehabilitation and on health benefits of Yoga shows that Yoga works. The results of YogaCaRe were presented in the American Heart Association Scientific Session in Chicago on Nov 10, 2018. The five year study ended in September 2018. The programme was funded by the **Indian Council for Medical Research (ICMR)** and Medical Research Council (UK). Professor Prabhakaran, Vice President, PHFI and Executive Director, CCDC and Principal Investigator of the study said, “The prevalence of ischemic heart disease in India has increased over by 50% and in terms of absolute numbers, has increased from 10 million in 1990 to 24 million in 2016. The Yoga-CaRe Trial the largest trial on Yoga as well as cardiac rehabilitation, has shown the potential of Yoga to be an alternative to the conventional CR programs and address the unmet needs of cardiac rehabilitation for patients in low- and middle-income countries. It is safe, relatively inexpensive, does not need an elaborate infrastructure, culturally acceptable and improves quality of life.” Findings of YogaCaRe trial

[Pharma lobby for hiking cost of drugs under govt price control](#)

November 12, 2018/Live Mint

New Delhi: A sharp rise in prices of commonly used drug raw materials from China has prompted a pharmaceutical industry lobby to seek higher retail prices of medicines that are under government price control. The group has warned that failure to do so may lead

to a shortage of medicines. With most small drug makers dependent on imports of active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs) from China, Federation of Pharmaceutical Entrepreneurs (FOPE) has sought a proportionate change in prices of medicines covered by the Drug Price Control Order (DPCO). The Indian pharma industry, particularly small drug makers, has been hurt by a shutdown of API manufacturing units in China because of environmental concerns. According to B.R. Sikri, president of FOPE, “prices of most of the commonly used APIs have increased in the range of 50% to 200% in a period of 3-4

months. The pharmaceutical market is dependent on imports to the tune of almost 70% of its APIs requirements.” Bulk drugs or APIs are the active raw materials used in a drug that give it the therapeutic effect. The Chinese government crackdown on API manufacturers has not only led to a rise in prices of raw material but has also caused supply disruptions, added Sikri. Indian drug makers have long been demanding a policy to attain self sufficiency in the manufacturing of APIs. In 2013, the government formed a panel headed by the then director general of **Indian Council of Medical Research** V.M. Katoch, which submitted its report in 2015. In April this year, the government formed a high-level task force to study global practices and draw up a plan aimed at boosting domestic production of APIs. However, the proposals are yet to be implemented.



[Cancer now kills more than double the Indians it did in 1990](#)

November 13,2018/Down to Earth

Cancer has killed more than double the number of people in 2016 than how many it had targeted in 1990. The **Indian Council of Medical Research's** quarter century study of cancer has found that while 3.82 lakh people had died of cancer in 1990, the number jumped to 8.13 lakh in 2016. The research organisation finds tobacco, alcohol use and dietary risks as the top reasons behind this increase. Several oncologists also call food adulteration, poor lifestyles and indoor pollution responsible for the disease. Also, the number of cancer cases saw a similar jump: they increased from 5.48 lakh (1990) to 11 lakh (2016). "All cancers together contributed 5 per cent of the total Disability Adjusted Life Years (health years of life lost) and 8.3 per cent of the total deaths in India in 2016 — an increase of 90.9 per cent and 112.8 per cent respectively from 1990," says the study.

The most common kinds of cancer cases found in India are stomach cancer (9 per cent), breast cancer (8.2 per cent), lung cancer (7.5 per cent), lip and oral cavity cancer (7.2 per cent), pharynx cancer other than nasopharynx (6.8 per cent), colon and rectum cancer (5.8 per cent), leukaemia (5.2 per cent), and cervical cancer (5.2 per cent).

Down To Earth had last month reported that two studies released on the same day had said that cancer is the second biggest killer in India, which will see 8.17 per cent of cancer deaths in the world this year.

[Cancer deaths have doubled since '90](#)

November 13,2018/Tribune

Deaths from cancer have more than doubled in India and contribution of the disease to total health loss in terms of years of life wasted has also doubled.

The **Indian Council of Medical Research** in a quarter century (1990 to 2016) study of cancer in India has found that new cancer cases annually increased from 5.48 lakh in 1990 to 11 lakh in 2016. Tobacco and alcohol use and dietary risks have been identified as top causes of cancers with a growing number of oncologists pointing to food adulteration, poor lifestyles and indoor pollution as major risk factors.

"All cancers together contributed 5 per cent of the total Disability Adjusted Life Years (health years of life lost) and 8.3 per cent of the total deaths in India in 2016 — an increase of 90.9 per cent and 112.8 per cent respectively from 1990," says the study which has among collaborators ICMR former DG and current Deputy DG, WHO Soumya Swaminathan and leading oncologists GK Rath of AIIMS, New Delhi.

The study says estimates new cancer cases increased from 5,48,000 in 1990 to 1.1 million in 2016 and the number of deaths increased from 3.82 lakh in 1990 to 8.13 lakh in 2016 (a rise of 53 per cent).

[Huge rise in oral cancer in five years, shows new global data](#)

November 14,2018/The Week

New data on cancer trends in India shows an alarming 114 per cent rise in cancers of the lip and oral cavity in the last five years. This is according to the International Agency for Research on Cancer, a WHO body, that compiles and publishes cancer incidence and mortality data (Globocan) from 185 countries for 36 types of cancers. Globocan data shows a 15 per cent increase in the number of cancer cases, 12 per cent increase in the number of deaths, and a 10 per cent increase in breast cancer in the country in the last five years. Experts attribute the big increase in cases of oral cancer to the practice of chewing tobacco and the high rate of consumption of Areca nut or supari.



Though chewing betel nut has been a cultural practice for generations, it is contributing to oral cancers in the recent past because of increase in consumption. "Earlier, people would crack the nut manually and consume limited quantities. With cheap and accessible packaged products such as sweet supari or pan masala, the consumption has increased manifold," said Dr Ravi Mehrotra, Director, **ICMR**-National Institute of Cancer Prevention and Research. Despite the fact that oral malignancies have a longer latent period than other cancers, Mehrotra said, oral cancers were being seen more in younger people. This is because the age of exposure to these carcinogenic products had come down.

Mehrotra made these observations at an event to launch a special issue of the Indian Journal of Medical Research on smokeless tobacco.

Smokeless tobacco products unregulated and under-reported

November 14,2018/The Pioneer

Smokeless tobacco (SLT) poses a global challenge as these products are largely unregulated and under-reported, with India being the largest consumer of such products by number, an NICPR official said Wednesday. Also, limited data is available on the properties, production, ingredients and health hazards of these preparations besides a dearth of adequate research in this area, said Ravi Mehrotra, director of the National Institute of Cancer Prevention and Research (NICPR). The NICPR collaborated with the Indian Journal of Medical Research (IJMR) to publish a special issue of the journal dedicated to SLT control. He said SLT is a global public health menace being consumed by a whopping 360 million people across 140 countries and causes more than 650,000 deaths globally. "Of this, almost 200 million people use SLT in India while it kills about 350,000 Indians every year. The total number of new cancer cases has gone up from 10,00,000 in 2012 to 11,57,294 in 2018, an increase of about 16 per cent," Mehrotra said, after the special issue of the IJMR encompassing the 'Challenges in Control of Smokeless Tobacco', the first such effort of its kind globally, was released by **ICMR Director General Balram Bhargava**. Tobacco manufacturers regularly try to introduce newer SLT products, increasing consumer appeal by adding attractive flavouring, newer delivery methods and brand mimicking. This is complemented by targeted marketing, producing an impact on tobacco use behaviour. "Awareness of the hazards of smoke tobacco use is also exploited by the tobacco industry, proposing SLT use as a harm reduction measure. The industry advertises SLT products as a safer alternative to cigarettes and advocates switching," Mehrotra said. The WHO FCTC Global Knowledge Hub on Smokeless Tobacco, which was established at the ICMR-NICPR in 2016, has completed a first of its kind compilation of the global progress made in SLT control in relation to all provisions of WHO FCTC.

"Given the lack of research on SLT in India (India's contribution to global SLT literature is at a meagre 11.7 per cent of all publications)," he said.

Diabetes a ticking time bomb

November 14,2018/Telangana Today

Among all the Non-Communicable Diseases of the present day, diabetes as a chronic ailment causes maximum loss of health among the population, long-term study on diabetes taken up by **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** in India, have indicated. The disease burden of diabetes has steadily increased in all the States over the past quarter of a century. The number of people with diabetes in India grew from 26 million in 1990 to 65 million by 2016. On World Diabetes Day, which falls on



Wednesday, the landmark ICMR study becomes even more relevant because prevalence of diabetes among adults aged 20 years or older in the country has increased from 5.5 per cent to 7.7 per cent in the same time frame. The ICMR study also said that 47 per cent of the diabetes cases in the population were undiagnosed, which highlights the poor awareness and detection of diabetes. It is also important to note that 43 per cent of deaths due to diabetes in India in 2016 were in people younger than 70 years.

Number of cancer cases up by 15.7 per cent since 2012

November 15,208/The Indian Express

A total of 11.57 lakh cancer cases was reported in India this year, a 15.7 per cent increase over the 10 lakh cases reported in 2012, Ravi Mehrotra, director of Indian Council of Medical Research's National Institute of Cancer Prevention and Research (**ICMR-NICPR**) said while releasing the India-specific data from Global Cancer Observatory (Globocan), 2018. Globocan is an interactive web-based platform presenting global cancer statistics to inform cancer control and research. The Globocan 2018 database, published recently by the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), includes estimates of cancer incidence and mortality across 185 countries for 36 types of cancers. Dr Mehrotra said there was a 12.1 per cent increase in the number of cancer-related deaths – while seven lakh people died due to cancer in 2012, 7,84,821 such cases were reported in 2018. He said, the report also flags a concern over increasing number of lip and oral cavity cancer, which has seen a 114.2 per cent spike since 2012. Breast cancer cases also saw 10.7 per cent rise, from 1.45 lakh cases in 2012 to 1.62 lakh in 2018. The only good news is a 21.2 per cent fall in number of cervical cancer cases. From 1.23 lakh cervical cancer cases in 2012, the GLOBOCAN data shows that there were 96,922 cervical cancer cases in 2018.

Diabetes growing rapidly & India is world's capital: Doctor

November 15,2018/DNA

At a time when diabetes is rapidly gaining the status of a potential epidemic in India, according to National Family Health Survey-4, in Rajasthan, 8.1% men and 4.7% women were found diabetic, which indicates that men are more prone to diabetes than women.

With the estimate that every fifth person suffering from diabetes in the world is an Indian, recent Lancet study reveals that India is among the top three countries with a high number of diabetic population. Attributing the rise in diabetic population to modern lifestyle, On World Diabetes Day, city-based diabetes experts emphasised to adopt a healthy lifestyle. "India is the diabetic capital of the world and it is the fastest growing disease," Dr G Karthiavelan, Unit head, Manipal Hospitals said.

"7.2 crore cases recorded in 2017 and the figure is expected to nearly double by 2025. It is also one of the biggest causes of early death in India and around 47.3% of patients are undiagnosed and do not know they have high blood glucose levels," he added.

According to the study conducted by **Indian Council of Medical Research**, 63.9% of Indian youth below the age of 25 has type 1 diabetes and 25.3 percent have type 2 diabetes. "Diabetes is a leading cause of Heart Disease, Kidney Failure, Stroke, Blindness and Lower Limb Amputation," Dr PP Patidar Diabetes specialist, Jeevan Rekha hospital. "Being overweight, physically inactive and eating the wrong foods all contribute to our risk of developing diabetes," he added. According to the doctors, the increased physical activity can reduce or delay the development of Type 2 Diabetes by nearly 60% and climbing stairs is a free and easy way to increase physical activity.



ICMR unveils new logo

November 15,2018/Business Standard

The **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)**, the apex body for health research in the country, Thursday unveiled its new logo and the branding guidelines on how it should be used by institutions under it. The dots and the Devanagari script used in the new logo reflect the Indian roots of the Council, the round and softer lettering depicts care and solidarity with science, and the straight line is for strength, professionalism and efficiency, an official said. The 107-year-old Council, one of the oldest medical research body in the world, has tried multiple evolutions in their logo over the century. The new identity will supplement the main logo of the Council which represents the lamp of knowledge with "Parikshakarino Hi Kushala Bhavanti". This Sanskrit shloka translates to, "Those alone are wise to act after investigation".

Balram Bhargava, secretary, Department of Health Research, and director general, ICMR, said the logo is "more than a change of symbol, it's a symbol of change".

Indian council of medical research unveils new logo

November 15,2018/The Times of India



The **Indian council of medical research (ICMR)**, the apex body for health research in the country, unveiled its new logo with devanagari script used along the exterior of the existing logo, and branding guidelines on how the logo should be used in all institutions under the council. "The dot and the Devanagari script in the exterior reflect the Indian roots of the council. The round and softer lettering depicts care and solidarity with science while the straight line imparts strength, professionalism and efficiency," ICMR said in a statement. The 107-year-old council, one of the oldest medical research body in the world, has tried multiple evolutions in their logo over the century. The new identity will supplement the main logo of the council which represents the lamp of knowledge with "Parikshakarino Hi Kushala Bhavanti". This Sanskrit shloka translates to, "Those alone are wise who act after investigation". Balram Bhargava, secretary, department of health research, and director general, ICMR, said the logo is "more than a change of symbol, it's a symbol of change".



[ICMR changes logo to add Devanagari script](#)

November 16, 2018/The Pioneer

Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) changed its logo to add Devanagari script in it on Thursday. The dot and the Devanagari script in the exterior reflect the Indian roots of the Council, said officials. Prof (Dr) Balram Bhargava Secretary, Department of Health Research and Director General, ICMR said, "This new identity is more than a change of symbol; it is a symbol of change. The new identity portrays ICMR's commitment to be responsive to the emerging health challenges through three fundamental differentiators Innovation, Professionalism and People." According to some officials, the round and softer lettering depicts care and solidarity with science while the straight line imparts strength, professionalism and efficiency. "ICMR has 26 institutes and regional medical research centres, laboratories and field stations across India. Increasingly, we felt that there was a need for uniformity of the ICMR brand across its institutes to embody its values and vision," said Dr Chander Shekhar, the Additional Director-General, ICMR. The logo has also been adopted to bring uniformity among its centres across the country. Along with ICMR headquarters all its institutes will have a similar brand identity change.

[Lip and oral cancer cases see steep rise since 2012: ICMR](#)

November 16, 2018/The Mint

Cases of lip and oral cancer in India have more than doubled since 2012 as a result of increased consumption of alcohol and tobacco products, the **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** said on Wednesday. Lip and oral cavity cancer are the most common cancers among males in India. The apex research body under the health ministry, also said while releasing the latest cancer data for India that the number of fresh cancer cases and deaths have been rising since 2012. ICMR collated the data from the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), a World Health Organization (WHO) agency that compiles and publishes incidence and mortality data for 185 countries for 36 types of cancers. The IARC's Section of Cancer Surveillance released its latest global cancer data—the GLOBOCAN 2018—in September. According to the India fact sheet of GLOBOCAN 2018, cancer of the lip and oral cavity showed a huge increase of 114.2% with 56,000 cases in 2012 that increased to 119,992 in 2018. The number of breast cancer cases increased by 10% from 145,000 in 2012 to 162,468 in 2018.

With regards,

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