

PRESS BRIEF

Exhibition of 'Innovations in Medical Science and Biotechnology' at Rashtrapati Bhavan on 9th March' 2017

An Exhibition on '**Innovations in Medical Science and Biotechnology**' has been organized for one day during the Festival of Innovations (FOIN) since 2015. The first two editions were organized jointly by Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and National Innovation foundation (NIF) on 11th March 2015 and 16th March 2016. The third edition of this Exhibition and a roundtable on: '**A Sustainable, Multi-Stakeholder Approach from Research to Technology [SMART] - Increasing Healthcare Reach**' will be organized jointly by ICMR, NIF and DBT-BIRAC (Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council) on 9th March 2017. Secretary, Health, Secretary, Department of Health Research and DG, ICMR, Secretary, DBT, Scientific Secretary, Office of Principle Scientific Adviser to Govt. of India, higher officials from Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, DBT, BIRAC, DST, MedTech Zone, investors like Tata Innovation Fund, Venture Capitalists and Angel networks, industrial bodies like FICCI, CII and innovators will be participating in this roundtable.

Bringing affordable healthcare to the doorstep of our population especially in rural areas is a big challenge. We may need to reboot our health system adding/deleting channels to give us the capacity to meet the pressures of changing needs of our population. In this scenario, technology is going to play a vital role in increasing healthcare's reach. The country needs to improve its innovation performance and create its own innovation metrics to understand the gaps and provide accelerators for innovations through reforms in policy wherever needed. However, innovation requires continuous investment. This investment in improving quality of innovation is critical for providing health to our citizens and long term economic growth. Innovative linkages between academia and industry are a win-win proposition for finding solutions to our local problems and having an impact at global level. The round-table discussion with multiple stakeholders will aim at finding solutions for the last mile coverage.

This year ICMR received **Four Hundred and Seventy Three** technologies from various sectors (engineering colleges like IITs, universities, medical colleges/institutes and Government Departments (ICMR, DBT, DST, DRDO, CSIR, DeitY, ISRO, Ministry of Textiles, and Agriculture), startups, incubators and individuals). The exhibited technologies are selected through an extremely rigorous process under the chairmanship of Prof KS Reddy, President, PHFI. Forty four technologies will be displayed at Rashtrapati Bhavan. The display of technologies at Rashtrapati Bhavan is now a coveted event and has created bonds between technology developers, medical research institutes, startups, individuals, regulators, National Programs and investors. The vision of this event is to showcase disruptive technologies of public health importance developed indigenously under "Make in India" effort and help them to reach the end user.

The technologies received by ICMR are at various stages of development and include import substitutes, those that have already been commercialized by startups, those ready for commercialization, those undergoing clinical validation or animal studies

and prototypes. Domains include maternal and child health, infectious diseases including tuberculosis and mosquito borne diseases, non communicable diseases, disability and safe water and sanitation. The uptake of these technologies following clinical validation will have long lasting impact on the health of our population.

Further, the focus of FOIN is on recognizing grass roots innovators and promoting and encouraging their uptake. Small innovations made by health workers could improve the quality of care resulting in better health outcomes. Through this exhibition and panel discussion ICMR hopes to ignite young minds as well as encourage those who are thinking out of box. We are also trying to link the formal and informal sector so as to use the best of our brains to solve local problems and have a mark on global scenario.