



INDIAN COUNCIL OF MEDICAL RESEARCH

Department of Health Research – Ministry of Health & Family Welfare
Government of India

Media report (03 August to 23 August 2019)
(ICMR IN NEWS)

(Syed Adil Shamim Andrabi)
Information Interface Officer

Preface

The PR Unit/PRO office of ICMR since last one and half years have reached from (where is ICMR located) to (everyday mention of ICMR and DG ICMR in National Media). This change from where to why signifies the media visibility and importance of our organization within this stipulated time duration.

Every week Indian Council of Medical Research and Director General ICMR are mentioned by dozens of daily news papers, periodicals and magazines including online editions.

Three weeks reports (ICMR IN NEWS dated 03 August to 23 August) includes the mention Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) in 75 news papers including top news papers such as Times of India, The New Indian Express, The Hindu, Economic Times, Hindustan Times, News18 among others.

As an organization we first need to fill internal information vacuum at the headquarters as well as the Institutes for better visibility of ICMR which will pave way for complete dilution of external information gap between ICMR and external public including media, government and other related organizations.

*Syed Adil Shamim Andrabi
Information Interface Officer/ PRO
ICMR Hqrs, New Delhi*

HEADLINES (As it is)



Infant milk: Nestle's clinical trial under scanner

August 03, 2019/ The Hindu

Check violations of baby foods Act, govt tells ICMR

August 03, 2019/ Times of India

Sting's down, but not out

August 03, 2019/ THE WEEK

Health ministry asks ICMR to check violations of baby foods Act

August 04, 2019/ Times of India

Curbing high blood pressure by 2025

August 04, 2019/ Hyderus Cyf

Govt orders probe into Nestle-led clinical trial

August 04, 2019/ The Tribune

2 B'luru hospitals suspected of IMS Act violations

August 04, 2019/ Deccan Herald

Nestle faces heat for conducting clinical trials on pre-term babies

August 04, 2019/ The News Minute

Team checks patient suspected of suffering from monkey malaria

August 04, 2019/ Times of India

Check violations of baby foods Act, govt tells ICMR

August 04, 2019/ Times of India

Nestle in trouble again for sponsoring research in 'violation' of breastfeeding law

August 04, 2019/ ThePrint

What India needs to do with e-cigarettes: Tighter regulations or complete ban?

August 05, 2019/ Economic Times

**Premature deaths a serious issue but not directly related to pollution:
Prakash Javadekar**

August 05, 2019/ Hindustan Times

Nestle under scanner for clinical trials in India

August 05, 2019/ Daily Pioneer

**Nestle violates law in India, conducts clinical trials on premature infants for
baby food**

August 05, 2019/ National Herald

**Nestle, 5 Top Hospitals Including Gangaram, Manipal under scanner over
clinical trials on 75 premature infants: Govt asks ICMR to probe**

August 05, 2019/ Medical Dialogues

**Nestlé Under Scanner: BPNI Alleges Violation In Trial On Feeding Patterns Of
Premature Babies**

August 05, 2019/ The Logical Indian

GATE 2020: New paper for biomedical engineering introduced, check syllabus

August 05, 2019/ Hindustan Times

**How Ineffective Healthcare System Is Adding To The Woes Of Manual
Scavengers In India**

August 05, 2019/ Youth Ki Awaaz

**Infection Surveillance Solutions Market Set for Rapid Growth and Trend, by
2026**

August 06, 2019/ Business Intelligence

Government may bring dialysis fluid, hearing aids and intraocular lens

August 07, 2019/ Livemint

**Price Cap: NLEM Committe to now target intraocular lens, dialysis fluid,
hearing aids;**

August 07, 2019/ Medical Dialogues

**HistoIndex and ILBS Launch Centre of Excellence in New Delhi for Advanced
Diagnostics and Clinical Research on Nonalcoholic Steatohepatitis (NASH)**

August 07, 2019/ ACROFAN USA

HistoIndex and ILBS Launch Centre of Excellence in New Delhi for Advanced Diagnostics and Clinical Research on Nonalcoholic Steatohepatitis (NASH)

August 07, 2019/ Yahoo Finance

Coal Utilisation Won't Decrease in India's Energy Mix, Strict Emission Norms for Power Plants Needed to Save Lives

August 07, 2019/ News18

Medical Image Analysis Software Market to Gain at a a CAGR of around 8.9% from 2018 to 2026

August 07, 2019/ Techdadz

Facial creams, lipsticks likely to trigger wheat allergy symptoms

August 08, 2019 / The Tribune

Indian Council Of Medical Research Declares Complete Prohibition Of ENDS

August 08, 2019 / Mondaq News

Congestive Heart Failure Drugs Market Find Out Top Impacting Factor of Market Growth By Opportunity and Industry Forecast

August 08, 2019 / Business Intelligence

Hypopharyngeal Cancer Treatment Market Comprehensive analysis of all the factors that are expected to impact the growth rate by 2026

August 08, 2019 / Business Intelligence

HistoIndex, ILBS launch CoE for R&D on NASH

August 08, 2019 / BSI bureau

Government considers exempting new generation of stents from price controls

August 09, 2019 / Livemint

Our notions of motherhood

August 09, 2019 / The Indian Express

Woman dies of suspected dengue at hosp in Doon

August 09, 2019 / Times of India

Adult Vaccines Market Will Witness a Staggering Growth During 2017-2025

August 09, 2019 / Business Intelligence

Doctors and social workers Amte couple delivers keynote at event organised by Osmania Medical College

August 10, 2019 / The New Indian Express

MoHFW seeks ICMR chief's examination of alleged IMS violations by Nestle

August 10, 2019 / fbnnews.com

Should Next Gen DES Stents be removed from Price Cap- Govt Panel to Decide

August 10, 2019 / Medical Dialogues

Global Cell Line Development market examined in new research report

August 10, 2019 / WhaTech

Bringing medicine and holistic art together at Hyderabad's most celebrated conferences for under-graduate medical students OSMECON 2019

August 11, 2019 / The New Indian Express

Muscular dystrophy patients seek a cheap Made in India drug

August 11, 2019 / Times of India

IIT Kharagpur Researchers Innovate Ultra-Low-Cost Blood Test Device

August 13, 2019 / Careers360

India CRO Market to Generate huge revenue with Rapidly Expanding Clinical Trials Number by the end of 2023

August 13, 2019 / Global Banking And Finance Review

Infertility experts recommend right treatment at right time

August 13, 2019 / Outlook India

Living legend award for nutrition scientist

August 13, 2019 / The Hindu

'FANS-Living Legend Award' for Dr C Gopalan

August 13, 2019 / The New Indian Express

Cell Line Development Market to Observe Strong Development of US\$ 7,200 Mn by 2028

August 13, 2019 / Business News Standard

159 free tests on India's first diagnostics list

August 15, 2019/ Hindustan Times

E-cigarettes: Current Scenario and Challenges in India

August 15, 2019/ ETHealthworld

The Surrogacy (Regulation) Bill 2019: A casual approach to a serious concern

August 15, 2019/ Business Today

National Institute of Nutrition director now part of international nutrition society

August 15, 2019/ The New Indian Express

India gets its first national essential diagnostics list

August 16, 2019/ The Hindu

Pune: ICMR to set up clinical trial platform, help bring down cost of drugs

August 17, 2019/ The Indian Express

Govt mulling options to enforce ban on e-cigarettes, nicotine flavoured hookahs

August 18, 2019/ The Economic Times

Govt mulling options to enforce ban on e-cigarettes, nicotine flavoured hookahs

August 18, 2019/ ETHealthworld

Specialists urge ICMR to reconsider its recommendations on banning ENDS

August 19, 2019/ Outlook India

Specialists urge ICMR to reconsider its recommendations on banning ENDS

August 19, 2019/ ETHealthworld

e-cigarettes can lead to nicotine addiction in non-smokers

August 20, 2019/ The Tribune

ICMR launches adjunct faculty scheme to promote bio-medical research

August 20, 2019/ BSI bureau

[Health Ministry Mulls Bringing Ordinance to enforce ban on e-cigarettes, nicotine flavoured hookahs](#)

August 20, 2019/ Medical Dialogues

[Specialists urge ICMR to reconsider its recommendations on banning ENDS](#)

August 20, 2019/ Devdiscourse

[George Institute hosts India's first Rapid Evidence Synthesis Unit in collaboration with NHSRC](#)

August 21, 2019/ Mirage News

[Specialists speak out against govt. push against ENDS](#)

August 21, 2019/ Mirage News

[Proposed ban on Electronic Nicotine Systems: Trade reps urge health ministry to re-look](#)

August 21, 2019/ ETHealthworld

[Proposed ban on Electronic Nicotine Systems: Trade representatives urge health ministry to re-look](#)

August 21, 2019/ Moneycontrol

[Details on shifting of CRME sought](#)

August 21, 2019/ The Hindu

[Industry Representatives Urge Relook At Proposed E-Cigarette Ban In India](#)

August 21, 2019/ BloombergQuint

[Elimination of lymphatic filariasis still a challenge](#)

August 22, 2019/ The Hindu

[Experts disagree with ICMR recommendations on Electronic Nicotine delivery Systems](#)

August 22, 2019/ APN News

[HC seeks documents on merger of CRME with VCRC](#)

August 22, 2019/ Times of India

[E-cigarette ban: Industry renews appeal against it](#)

August 22, 2019/ Hyderus Cyf

National ban on new types of tobacco introduction like E- Cigarettes is required - Dr. Kirit Bhai Solanki MP

August 22, 2019/ Outlook India

Vaping is harmful too: ICMR

August 23, 2019/ Telangana Today

Study: India's meat and egg consumption very low

August 23, 2019/ Deccan Chronicle

Explaining E-Cigarettes in India: To Ban or Not to Ban?

August 23, 2019/ The Quint

Infant milk: Nestle's clinical trial under scanner

August 03, 2019/ The Hindu

A prominent manufacturer of infant milk substitute is now under the Union Health Ministry's scanner for sponsoring a research titled "Multicentric Observational Study to Observe Growth in Preterm hospitalised infants" in alleged violation of rules in five hospitals across the country. The manufacturer, Nestle India Ltd., conducted clinical trials on 75 premature babies in five hospitals on substitutes for breast milk in complete contravention of the The Infant Milk Substitutes, Feeding Bottles, and Infant Foods (Regulation Of Production, Supply And Distribution) Act 1992 And Amendment Act 2003(IMS Act). The alleged violation was found by the Breastfeeding Promotion Network of India (BPNI) on screening the trial registry of the **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)**. The BPNI complained to Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan on July 17 alleging that the company had violated Section 9(2) of the IMS Act. This Section states that no producer, supplier or distributor shall offer or give any contribution or pecuniary benefit to a health worker or any association of health workers, including funding of seminar, meeting, conferences, educational course, contest, fellowship, research work or sponsorship. Following the complaint, Union Health Secretary Preeti Sudan on Friday (August 2) directed ICMR Director Balram Bhargava to "get the trial examined and take necessary action to comply with the provisions of the IMS Act". She has also directed Prof. Bhargava to ensure that all such clinical trials are first screened for infringement of the IMS Act in future.

Check violations of baby foods Act, govt tells ICMR

August 03, 2019/ Times of India

During the World Breastfeeding Week currently underway, the health ministry has come out strongly against violation of the Infant Milk Substitutes Act by Nestle India Limited through sponsorship of a clinical trial in five hospitals, which is prohibited under the IMS (Infant Milk Substitutes) Act. The health ministry has asked the director of the **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** to examine a complaint regarding the violation and take necessary action. The ministry also asked ICMR to ensure that all trials in future are screened for infringement of the IMS Act. In a letter issued to ICMR director Dr Balram Bhargava on Friday, Union health secretary Preeti Sudan sought a report on the issue. The ministry's letter pointed out that the Breastfeeding Promotion Network of India (BPNI), which has been notified by the government to monitor compliance with the IMS Act, had complained to health minister Dr Harshvardhan on July 17 regarding the violation of the Infant Milk Substitutes, Feeding Bottles and Infant Foods (Regulation of Production, Supply & Distribution) Act by Nestle and several hospitals.

Sting's down, but not out

August 03, 2019/ THE WEEK



It has killed more people world over than wars have. So, when India registered a decline in the number of malaria cases, it became an obvious reason to cheer. The optimism in certain policy quarters and nonprofit organisations working on the disease has been palpable. After all, not too long ago, India was among the top three countries leading in the number of malaria cases. In 2017 though, the country managed to register a 24 per cent decline in new cases (according to the World Malaria Report, 2018). Odisha, which has 40 per cent of the malaria cases in the country, saw a staggering 80 per cent fewer cases. The malaria burden has also declined by over 80 per cent between 2000 and 2018 (from 2.03 million cases to 0.39 million), and malaria deaths by over 90 per cent (from 932 deaths to 85). The big point that the report and experts are making is that given our history of the fight against malaria, we can't afford to be laidback. "Despite a successful malaria control programme launched in 1953, there was a resurgence of the disease in the 1960s and 1970s. This was the result of technical, financial and operational problems," said Dr Manju Rahi, senior scientist at the **Indian Council of Medical Research**. "In the late 1960s malaria cases in urban areas started to multiply, and upsurge of malaria was widespread. Government efforts led to a decline by 1987, but by 1996, there was a surge again. The eradication goal was officially shelved and the programme was changed to National Anti-Malaria Programme in 1997." The annual case load, though steady around two million cases in the late 1990s, has shown a declining trend since 2002. Malaria control interventions have also been scaled up after the launch of National Framework for Malaria Elimination in February 2016. "But we must not be fooled by the recent decline, because in the past too, we have seen that the cases went down, and then the disease came back," said Rahi.

Health ministry asks ICMR to check violations of baby foods Act

August 04, 2019/ Times of India

NEW DELHI: During the World Breastfeeding Week currently underway, the health ministry has come out strongly against violation of the Infant Milk Substitutes Act by Nestle India Limited through sponsorship of a clinical trial in five hospitals, which is prohibited under the IMS (Infant Milk Substitutes) Act. The health ministry has asked the director of the **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** to examine a complaint regarding the violation and take necessary action. The ministry also asked ICMR to ensure that all trials in future are screened for infringement of the IMS Act. In a letter issued to ICMR director Dr Balram Bhargava on Friday, union health secretary Preeti Sudan sought a report on the issue. The ministry's letter pointed out that the Breastfeeding Promotion Network of India (BPNI), which has been notified by the government to monitor compliance with the IMS Act, had complained to health minister Dr Harshvardhan on July 17 regarding the violation of the Infant Milk Substitutes, Feeding Bottles and Infant Foods (Regulation of Production, Supply & Distribution) Act by Nestle and several hospitals.

Curbing high blood pressure by 2025

August 04, 2019/ Hyderus Cyf



In an ambitious campaign to reduce instance of high blood pressure, the **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** and the World Health Organization (WHO) have launched the India Hypertension Control Initiative (IHCI), covering 25 districts across five states. The 25 districts are only the beginning of the campaign: the ICMR intends to expand the initiative to cover 100 districts across the nation over the next few years. The objective is to achieve a 25 percent reduction in the prevalence of high blood pressure — or hypertension — in the county by 2025. According to the ICMR, around 10.8 percent of deaths in India are attributable to hypertension. Despite this figure, accurate estimates for the overall prevalence of hypertension are all but impossible. Numerous studies have tried to establish estimates and turned up significantly varied figures. According to Dr Subhojit Dey, the number of people living with hypertension in India is around 224 million – around seventeen percent of the total population. Hypertension is both preventable and treatable, though efforts to prevent the condition may be far more beneficial to public health. Slight lifestyle changes such as exercise and healthier diets can go a long way to reduce risks of developing hypertension. Treatment, however, could be an expensive endeavour for many Indians. Even with an insurance policy, many will still pay out of pocket for prescriptions. Concerningly, only eight percent of people with hypertension control their blood pressure. As Dr Dey told Health Issues India on World Hypertension Day earlier this year, “there is a huge gap between people knowing they are hypertensive and then actually controlling their blood pressure. This gap needs to be covered.”

Govt orders probe into Nestle-led clinical trial

August 04, 2019/ The Tribune

The government today ordered a probe into a clinical trial being sponsored by Nestle India, asking the apex medical research regulator **ICMR** to investigate the matter and take action. The directions were issued by the Health Ministry after evidence that Nestle India was in alleged violation of the Indian law that prohibits producers of baby foods from extending pecuniary benefits or other contributions to health workers or associations of health workers namely doctors and hospitals caring for mother and infants. The directions from Health Secretary Preeti Sudan followed a complaint to the government by the Breastfeeding Promotion Network of India (BPNI), notified by the Centre to monitor the compliance of the Indian Milk Substitutes Act 2003 that prevents baby food makers from sponsoring or supporting research. While evaluating this law, came across a Nestle-sponsored trial registered with the ICMR’s Clinical Trial Registry. “The BPNI has found that the principal investigator of the trial (registered with ICMR’s clinical trials registry) is Dr Monjori Mitra, Trial Coordinator of Medclin Research, and five hospitals are participating in the trial. The primary sponsor of the trial is Nestle India. Get the matter examined and take necessary action to comply with the provisions of the IMS Act and ensure that all trials in future are screened for any infringement of the IMS Act,” Health Secretary Preeti Sudan wrote to ICMR DG Balram Bhargava after Health Minister Harsh Vardhan’s intervention.

[2 B'loru hospitals suspected of IMS Act violations](#)

August 04, 2019/ Deccan Herald



The Breastfeeding Promotion Network of India (BPNI) — a body notified by the Government of India to monitor the implementation of Infant Milk Substitutes Act — has named five hospitals, including Bengaluru's Manipal Hospital and Cloudnine Hospital as being part of the study sponsored by Nestle India Ltd. According to the BPNI, Dr Monjoni Mitra of Medclin Research is the trial co-ordinator of the study, which has been registered under the ICMR. “On examining the ICMR Clinical Trial Registry maintained by the **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)**, BPNI confirmed that Nestle India Limited, a producer of infant milk substitutes and infant foods, is sponsoring research titled ‘Multicentric Observational Study to Observe Growth in Preterm hospitalized infants’,” said an official from the BPNI. Alleging violations of the IMS Act, the BPNI wrote to the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MOHWF) following which the MOHWF shot off a letter (a copy of which is with DH) to the director-general of the Indian Council for Medical Research (ICMR) to initiate action. In the letter, the MOHWF asks that the complaint from the BPNI be examined at the ICMR. “Please get this examined and take necessary action at your end to comply with the provision of the IMS Act and also ensure that all the trials in future are screened for any infringement of the IMS Act,” the letter states. Although the hospitals deny wrongdoing, the BPNI, citing ICMR documents, said the research had been approved by ethical committees which are not independent.

[Nestle faces heat for conducting clinical trials on pre-term babies](#)

August 04, 2019/ The News Minute

The Breastfeeding Promotion Network of India (BPNI) has found a violation in a clinical trial conducted by the Indian branch of Swiss food company Nestle, alerting officials from the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. The issue will now be brought before the **Indian Council of Medical Research** which will examine the case and take the necessary measures. Nestle had conducted a trial on 75 premature babies in five different hospitals throughout India. The study aimed to understand the growth and feeding patterns in preterm infants, who generally cannot tolerate feeds the same way that term babies can. As per the trial's findings, it was suggested that from the third day of birth onwards, the newborn could be given a milk substitute instead of breastmilk. When the study was brought to the attention of the BPNI, before the findings could be validated, it was found that Nestle was in direct violation of the Infant Milk Substitutes (IMS) Act.

[Team checks patient suspected of suffering from monkey malaria](#)

August 04, 2019/ Times of India

Bareilly: After a native of Bareilly suspected to have been diagnosed with “monkey malaria” in Uttarakhand's Almora district hospital, the district team of malaria department visited the patient's house in Devchara area of Bareilly on Saturday. The team conducted tests and checked his reports. Experts at Almora district hospital had earlier claimed that 62-year-old Nanhe is suspected to have contracted the infection from a rare malaria parasite — Plasmodium knowlesi — which is usually found among monkeys. His test report from the **Indian Council for Medical Research (ICMR)** is awaited.

[Check violations of baby foods Act, govt tells ICMR](#)

August 04, 2019/ Times of India



During the World Breastfeeding Week currently underway, the health ministry has come out strongly against violation of the Infant Milk Substitutes Act by Nestle India Limited through sponsorship of a clinical trial in five hospitals, which is prohibited under the IMS (Infant Milk Substitutes) Act. The health ministry has asked the director of the **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** to examine a complaint regarding the violation and take necessary action. The ministry also asked ICMR to ensure that all trials in future are screened for infringement of the IMS Act. In a letter issued to ICMR director Dr Balram Bhargava on Friday, Union health secretary Preeti Sudan sought a report on the issue. The ministry's letter pointed out that the Breastfeeding Promotion Network of India (BPNI), which has been notified by the government to monitor compliance with the IMS Act, had complained to health minister Dr Harshvardhan on July 17 regarding the violation of the Infant Milk Substitutes, Feeding Bottles and Infant Foods (Regulation of Production, Supply & Distribution) Act by Nestle and several hospitals.

[Nestle in trouble again for sponsoring research in 'violation' of breastfeeding law](#)

August 04, 2019/ ThePrint

New Delhi: The Indian arm of Swiss food giant Nestle has come under the scanner for allegedly sponsoring research in five Indian hospitals in violation of a law that protects and promotes breastfeeding, six months after it was scrutinised for a similar transgression. Following a complaint by NGO Breastfeeding Promotion Network of India (BPNI), the Union Ministry of Health & Family Welfare has alerted the **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)**, the country's apex body to conduct medical research, to "examine the matter and take necessary actions". In a letter dated 2 August, health secretary Preeti Sudan instructed ICMR director general Balram Bhargava to "ensure that all trials in future are screened for any infringement of IMS Act". ThePrint has seen a copy of the letter. In India, the Infant Milk Substitutes, Feeding Bottles and Infant Foods Act, also known as the IMS Act, prohibits direct and indirect sponsorship of health workers by product manufacturers. It also bars financial inducements, pecuniary benefit, and funding of seminars, educational courses, contests, fellowships or research for health workers by companies manufacturing baby products listed under the IMS Act.

[What India needs to do with e-cigarettes: Tighter regulations or complete ban?](#)

August 05, 2019/ Economic Times

Jay Kapadia was a chain-smoker for 35 years. "I wanted to quit," the Mumbai-based businessman recalled. "I had tried everything — nicotine patches, hypnotherapy, hospitalisation. Nothing worked." In 2011, his wife suggested he switch to e-cigarettes. A novelty device then, it consisted of ingesting nicotine through a battery-powered vaporiser instead of burning tobacco. It wasn't too common in India at the time but vaping was gaining currency as a healthier alternative to cigarettes in several western countries. The Oxford English Dictionary even recognised it as the Word of the Year in 2014. Kapadia, 53, doesn't smoke anymore, only vapes. "And I think I speak for most of us here that

we used to be smokers at some point,” he added, referring to the informal group of e-cigarette distributors called the India Vape Industry Association (InVIA), one balmy July afternoon. In July, some media reports, citing anonymous sources from the Health Ministry, said the Union government intended to put a complete ban on e-cigarettes and vaping products. The move came after the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), in May, backed a total ban on Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems (ENDS), saying such devices become a gateway to smoking and had the potential to get a nonsmoker addicted to nicotine. Vaping, it said, had an impact across the life course, “from womb to the tomb”.



Premature deaths a serious issue but not directly related to pollution: Prakash Javadekar

August 05, 2019/ Hindustan Times

Union minister of information & broadcasting and environment & forests Prakash Javadekar spoke to Smriti Kak Ramachandran and Jayashree Nandi on a range of issues, including environmental clearances, the Indian Forest Act, and situation in Jammu and Kashmir, mob violence, and criticism from the Opposition that the government was pushing legislations through Parliament without enough discussion. I think the government has made it very clear that there is a perceptible threat perception, and we don't want a terror attack; we want to foil it. Therefore, the governor has made it very clear to not only the delegation of political leaders, but to the people, by giving interviews and holding a press conference that people should not worry, nothing is going to happen dramatically. These are all precautionary measures. I think that suffices the purpose, nothing more should be added at this juncture. In a reply to a Lok Sabha question, you said there is no conclusive data available in the country to establish direct correlation of death/disease exclusively due to air pollution. But there is an **Indian Council for Medical Research (ICMR)** study.

Nestle under scanner for clinical trials in India

August 05, 2019/ Daily Pioneer

The Union Health Ministry has asked the **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** to probe into the allegations against the Indian arm of Swiss food giant, Nestle, for allegedly sponsoring research in five Indian hospitals in violation of a law that protects and promotes breastfeeding. The move followed after an NGO Breastfeeding Promotion Network of India (BPNI), wrote to the Ministry complaining that the Nestle had violated the infant milk substitutes, feeding bottles and infant foods act, also known as the IMS Act which prohibits direct and indirect sponsorship of health workers by product manufacturers. Nestle, however, has denied the allegations stating that the trials were being conducted after following all the norms. In a letter dated August 2, Health Secretary Preeti Sudan instructed ICMR director general Balram Bhargava to “ensure that all trials in future are screened for any infringement of IMS Act”. ThePrint has seen a copy of the letter. The IMS Act bars financial inducements, pecuniary benefit, and funding of seminars, educational courses, contests, fellowships or research for health workers by companies manufacturing baby products listed under the IMS Act. According to the BPNI complaint, Nestle India Ltd is listed as the primary sponsor and source of monetary or material support to five hospitals conducting the research titled “Multicentric Observational Study to Observe Growth in Preterm hospitalized infants”.

[Nestle violates law in India, conducts clinical trials on premature infants for baby food](#)



August 05, 2019/ National Herald

Breaking the law, Nestle has conducted clinical trials on 75 premature babies in five hospitals on substitutes for breast milk in complete contravention of the Infant Milk Substitutes Act. It was found by Breastfeeding Promotion Network of India (BPNI) on screening the trial registry of **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** that Nestle has sponsored a research titled “Multicentric Observational Study to Observe Growth in Preterm hospitalised infants”. The trial was conducted on 75 premature babies between the age of 28-34 weeks. The objective of the study was to assess the growth and feeding intolerance in preterm infants. One of the exclusions was that the infant could not be fed milk substitute within 48 hours of birth, but from the third day onwards, the trial suggested that the infant could be given a milk substitute instead of breast milk. BPNI complained to the ministry of health and family welfare and on receiving the complaint health secretary Preeti Sudan directed the ICMR director Balram Bhargava to monitor compliance of this clinical trial with law. Reprimanding ICMR for not having paid attention to their duty.

[Nestle, 5 Top Hospitals Including Gangaram, Manipal under scanner over clinical trials on 75 premature infants: Govt asks ICMR to probe](#)

August 05, 2019/ Medical Dialogues

New Delhi: Indian arm of Swiss food giant, Nestle has fallen under the Government’s lens for allegedly sponsoring research in five Indian hospitals and conducting clinical trials on 75 premature infants in violation of Infant Milk Substitutes(IMS) Act. Ordering a probe in this regard, the Union Health Ministry has directed the apex medical research regulator, **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** to investigate the matter and take necessary action. The leading manufacturer of infant milk substitutes and infant foods, including Lactogen and Nan, has been allegedly found to sponsor research in hospitals namely Cloudnine Hospital (Bengaluru), Institute of Child Health (Kolkata), Manipal Hospital (Bengaluru), Sir Ganga Ram Hospital (New Delhi) and Calcutta Medical Research Institute (Kolkata).

[Nestlé Under Scanner: BPNI Alleges Violation In Trial On Feeding Patterns Of Premature Babies](#)

August 05, 2019/ The Logical Indian

The Indian arm of the Swiss food company Nestlé conducted a trial on 75 premature babies in five hospitals across the country. The trial was aimed at understanding the feeding patterns in preterm infants. These babies have different feeding patterns as compared to term babies. As per the result of this study, Nestlé found that preterm babies may be provided milk substitute in place of breast milk from the third day of birth. The study was titled “Multicentric Observational Study to Observe Growth in Preterm Hospitalized Infants”. This trial was registered in December 2018 with the Clinical Trial Registry of India (CTRI), maintained by the **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)**, sponsored by Nestlé. The Breastfeeding Promotion Network of India (BPNI) has found a violation in the trial so conducted. BPNI says that Nestlé was in direct violation of the Infant Milk Substitutes (IMS) Act.

[GATE 2020: New paper for biomedical engineering introduced, check syllabus](#)



August 05, 2019/ Hindustan Times

A new paper Biomedical Engineering (BM) in Graduate Aptitude Test in Engineering (GATE) is introduced from the year 2020. This is expected to unify undergraduate syllabus of Biomedical Engineering among several universities, and to help stimulating the growth of BME research and product development in India. The BME Sector in India is in need of a major development mainly due to the lack of adequate integration between research institutions, hospitals, industries, and universities in India. Clinicians and engineers work in isolation without collaborating with each other and other stakeholders. The challenges of BME graduates in India were discussed in a recent meeting held at IIT Madras, which is organized by Biomedical Engineering Group of Applied Mechanics Department, IIT Madras, along with representatives from several other IITs. The meeting was chaired by Prof. V. Jagadeesh Kumar, Dean (Academic Courses), IIT Madras, and co-chaired by Prof. Neelesh Vasa who was the GATE Chairman last year. After analysing the issues, it was decided to propose a new GATE paper for BME to solve some of the issues. In the recent times, GATE has become the gateway for not only for various higher education but is also considered for entering Government institutions such as Public Sector Undertakings, Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) Laboratories, and **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** Centers in India besides a few educational institutes abroad.

[How Ineffective Healthcare System Is Adding To The Woes Of Manual Scavengers In India](#)

August 05, 2019/ Youth Ki Awaaz

International Labour Organisation describes three forms of manual scavenging in India: removal of human excrement from public streets and dry latrines, cleaning septic tanks, cleaning gutters and sewers. In India, the inhumane task of manual scavenging is exclusively carried out by the Dalit community of specific sub-castes and is an archetype of the oppressive legacy of the hierarchical Hindu *varna* system. **Indian Council of Medical Research** has documented a range of medical conditions associated with manual scavenging which includes: infectious diseases, respiratory diseases, musculoskeletal conditions, and can be highly fatal attributing to carbon monoxide and methane poisoning, especially when most manual scavengers work without any protective equipment. Recently, Indian Express reported a fatality rate as high as one death every five days. There is only fragmented public health evidence in terms of the health status of manual scavengers with total disregard of the fact that utilisation of health services is extremely low amongst manual scavengers and their families.

[Infection Surveillance Solutions Market Set for Rapid Growth and Trend, by 2026](#)

August 06, 2019/ Business Intelligence

Infection surveillance solutions are the programs, which helps in effective management of the Healthcare-Acquired Infections (HAIs) in healthcare facilities. Pneumonia, gastrointestinal illness, urinary tract infections, primary bloodstream

infections, and infection related to some surgery are the few major HAIs. High incidences of HAIs is the major concern for government across the globe, and hence, various governments have outlined policies to effectively manage and reduce incidences of HAIs. In 1994, Public Health Agency of Canada's Centre for Communicable Diseases and Infection Control (CCDIC) and the National Microbiology Laboratory (NML) collaborated and launched the Canadian Nosocomial Infection Surveillance Program (CNISP) across the Canada. The objective of CNISP was to control the healthcare-associated infections (HAIs) throughout the Canada. Furthermore, between 2013 and 2014 Indian Council of Medical Research and the National Centre for Disease Control started Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) Surveillance Networks. Moreover, the pharmaceutical companies such as Pfizer, Inc. has also shown interest in dealing with antimicrobial resistance. In January 2018, Pfizer, Inc. partnered with **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** to combat antimicrobial resistance. AMR stewardship programs for nursing homes, scaling up of the AMR surveillance network will be the few key steps implemented by this partnership.



[Government may bring dialysis fluid, hearing aids and intraocular lens](#)

August 07, 2019/ Livemint

After stents and knee implants, the government is all set to regulate prices of intraocular lens, hearing aids and dialysis fluid used in the treatment of kidney-related ailments. A newly-constituted committee on the National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM) has identified these products for price control, two people aware of the matter said. The committee headed by Balam Bhargava, secretary, department of health research and director general of the **Indian Council of Medical research (ICMR)**, met stakeholders and experts on the subject on Tuesday and shortlisted these three medical products that should be available in adequate numbers and assured quality, said one of the two people cited earlier. The NLEM committee identifies essential medicines and sends the list to a second committee comprising Rajiv Kumar, vice chairman, NITI Aayog; Preeti Sudan, secretary, health ministry; and P.D. Vaghela, secretary, department of pharmaceuticals, for deciding which ones are to be brought under price control. "It has been seen that intraocular lenses and hearing aids manufacturers, distributors, and hospitals are allegedly pocketing profits ranging from 59% to 1,500% on the manufacturing cost. The prices hence have to be cut. After meeting the stakeholders, these three were identified and will be sent to the other committee for bringing them under price control," the second person said, requesting anonymity.

[Price Cap: NLEM Committe to now target intraocular lens, dialysis fluid, hearing aids;](#)

August 07, 2019/ Medical Dialogues

New Delhi: After fixing the prices of various stents including cardiac stents and orthopedic implants and even cancer drugs, the government is soon going to shift its focus to fixing the maximum prices of various other medical essentials. As to a recent media report, the prices of hearing aids, intraocular lens and dialysis fluid indicated for treating kidney-related ailments is likely to be capped. For the same, the Government has constituted a new committee on the National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM) to regulate the prices of these products. It is learnt that

intraocular lenses and hearing aids manufacturers, distributors and hospitals are allegedly concealing profits ranging from 59% to 1500% on the manufacturing cost, thereby making it essential to cap the prices of these medical devices. To regulate the same, the committee under the chairmanship of by Balram Bhargava, Secretary, Department of Health Research and Director General of the **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** met the stakeholders and experts on the subject and shortlisted these three medical products-intraocular lenses, dialysis fluids and hearing aids, that should be available in adequate numbers and assured quality.



HistoIndex and ILBS Launch Centre of Excellence in New Delhi for Advanced Diagnostics and Clinical Research on Nonalcoholic Steatohepatitis (NASH)

August 07, 2019/ ACROFAN USA

The Center of Excellence aims to enhance NASH diagnostics and clinical trials in India with HistoIndex's AI-based Second Harmonic Generation (SHG) digital pathology platform. SINGAPORE and NEW DELHI, Aug. 7, 2019 /PRNewswire/ -- In a cross border collaboration, HistoIndex and the Institute of Liver & Biliary Sciences (ILBS) in New Delhi, India have jointly launched a Centre of Excellence (CoE) to aid diagnostics and clinical trials focusing on NASH. The CoE is HistoIndex's first Genesis Imaging Service (GIS) partner in India and joins the company's global network of medical, academic and referral laboratory partners who are involved in comprehensive clinical and scientific studies on NASH and other chronic liver conditions. The CoE was launched today during the Dr V. Ramalingaswami Oration and Hepatopathology Meeting 2019 at the ILBS. Distinguished guests in attendance at the launch included Professor Balram Bhargava, Secretary, Department of Health Research, (Ministry of Health & Family Welfare), Government of India and Director General, **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)**, and Mr Lim Thuan Kuan, High Commissioner of Singapore in New Delhi.

HistoIndex and ILBS Launch Centre of Excellence in New Delhi for Advanced Diagnostics and Clinical Research on Nonalcoholic Steatohepatitis (NASH)

August 07, 2019/ Yahoo Finance

The Center of Excellence aims to enhance NASH diagnostics and clinical trials in India with HistoIndex's AI-based Second Harmonic Generation (SHG) digital pathology platform. SINGAPORE and NEW DELHI, Aug. 7, 2019 /PRNewswire/ -- In a cross border collaboration, HistoIndex and the Institute of Liver & Biliary Sciences (ILBS) in New Delhi, India have jointly launched a Centre of Excellence (CoE) to aid diagnostics and clinical trials focusing on NASH. The CoE is HistoIndex's first Genesis Imaging Service (GIS) partner in India and joins the company's global network of medical, academic and referral laboratory partners who are involved in comprehensive clinical and scientific studies on NASH and other chronic liver conditions. The CoE was launched today during the Dr V. Ramalingaswami Oration and Hepatopathology Meeting 2019 at the ILBS. Distinguished guests in attendance at the launch included Professor Balram Bhargava, Secretary, Department of Health Research, (Ministry of Health & Family Welfare), Government of India and Director General, **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)**, and Mr Lim Thuan Kuan, High Commissioner of Singapore in New Delhi.

[Coal Utilisation Won't Decrease in India's Energy Mix, Strict Emission Norms for Power Plants Needed to Save Lives](#)



August 07, 2019/ News18

After the Central Electricity Authority's (CEA) announcement last month that coal will still account for half of the country's total electricity generation by 2030 despite a major push by the government toward renewable energy sector, experts have again emphasised upon the urgency to enforce stricter emission standards. Today, more than 63% of India's installed power generation capacity comes from coal-fired plants but most of these power stations are not fitted with pollution control technology. Although the central government revised emissions standards in 2015, no power plant had complied by the end of 2017, leading the government to extend the deadline to 2022. India's total power generation will cross 830 gigawatt by 2030. More than 400 gigawatts of this will come from coal. In such a scenario, strict emission standards and monitoring will be the key to achieve desirable air quality. This is particularly important because in the last few years, several international reports, including State of Global Air (SoGA) and a report in The Lancet, said that India is losing 10 lakh to 12 lakh people every year due to air pollution-related diseases. The government dismissed these "foreign" reports by terming them "alarmist" but India's own research body, **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)**, last year came up with similar data for deaths due to air pollution-related ailments.

[Medical Image Analysis Software Market to Gain at a CAGR of around 8.9% from 2018 to 2026](#)

August 07, 2019/ Techdadz

The global medical imaging analysis market was valued at approximately US\$ 2.6 Bn in 2017. It is projected to register a cumulative annual growth rate (CAGR) of more than 8.1% from 2018 to 2026, according to a new report published by Transparency Market Research (TMR) titled 'Medical Imaging Analysis Software Market – Global Industry Analysis, Size, Share, Growth, Trends, and Forecast, 2018–2026.' Expansion of the health care industry, government initiatives, increase in health care expenditure, rise in product approvals, and increase in the patient population are projected to augment the global market from 2018 to 2026. North America and Western Europe are likely to account for a dominant share of the global medical image analysis software market owing to advancements in healthcare and products and business expansion by various market leaders. Development of health care infrastructure and high medical expenditure by governments in emerging markets, such as China and India, are likely to boost the medical image analysis software market in Asia Pacific at a CAGR of around 8.9% from 2018 to 2026. The market in Asia Pacific is anticipated to expand at an impressive CAGR during the forecast period. The market is estimated to expand at a CAGR of 8.9% during the forecast period. India, China, and Japan are expected to drive the medical image analysis software market in Asia Pacific. Increasing prevalence of cardiovascular diseases and cancer in countries such as India and China, increasing awareness regarding early diagnosis of chronic diseases and improving economic condition are expected to fuel the market. According to **Indian Council of Medical Research**, prevalence of cancer in India is around 2.5 million people among which, 800,000 new cases are detected and 550,000 deaths occur every year due to cancer.

Facial creams, lipsticks likely to trigger wheat allergy symptoms

August 08, 2019 / The Tribune



A research study conducted on more than 1,000 patients of coeliac disease at the department of medical gastroenterology over nine years has indicated that even small traces of wheat in food consumed by patients can lead to poor control, damage to small intestine and recurrence of related symptoms. Medical experts advise patients of coeliac disease to use separate flour machines and utensils and avoid frequent and excessive use of cosmetic products like lipsticks and facial creams, especially if there is a cut on the skin. “Many cosmetic products contain gluten as a base and coeliac disease, commonly known as wheat allergy, is caused due to intolerance or allergy to gluten,” says Dr Parveen Malhotra, head of the department of medical gastroenterology at the Rohtak PGIMS. A comparative study of the northern, eastern and southern parts of the country conducted by a task force of the **Indian Council of Medical Research** pointed out that wheat intake in Haryana was nearly 10 times higher than in Assam and Tamil Nadu. The study, conducted in 2016, maintained that the prevalence of coeliac disease was 8.53 per 1,000 in Haryana, 4.66 per 1,000 in Assam and 0.11 per 1,000 in Tamil Nadu. Dr Malhotra observes that in view of the higher prevalence of coeliac disease in Haryana compared to other states, wheat grown in Haryana should be tested for its gluten content.

Indian Council Of Medical Research Declares Complete Prohibition Of ENDS

August 08, 2019 / Mondaq News

Indian Council for Medical Research has recently declared the prohibition of ENDS or e-cigarettes in India due to adverse health related data now available after extensive research. This prohibition from ICMR was for public to prevent them, especially children and pregnant mothers, from the side effects of ENDS or e-cigarettes. Impact of ENDS on Public Health ENDS or e-cigarettes are battery operated smoking devices. These products contain nicotine in different concentrations along with other flavoring and vaporizing agents found to be harmful for the health. The products resemble exactly like traditional tobacco products like nicotine cigarettes and cigars. ENDS are also harmful for non-users especially children and pregnant mothers as it can gravely affect them due to their weak immune system⁴. Use of ENDS or e-cigarettes has documented adverse effects on humans which include DNA damage; carcinogenesis; cellular, molecular and immunological toxicity; respiratory, cardiovascular and neurological disorders and adverse impact on foetal development and pregnancy⁵. There are several reports of poisoning due to accidental swallowing by children which is a major reason of concern for all health authorities to take stringent actions on use and manufacturing of ENDS products.

Congestive Heart Failure Drugs Market Find Out Top Impacting Factor of Market Growth By Opportunity and Industry Forecast

August 08, 2019 / Business Intelligence

Congestive heart failure commonly called as heart failure is a medical condition that affects pumping ability of heart muscle. Certain medical conditions such as narrowing of arteries of the heart or high blood pressure gradually makes the heart too weak and stiff to fill and pump efficiently. Risk factors that can cause heart

failure are high blood pressure, coronary artery disease, diabetes, sleep apnea, obesity, virus, alcohol use, hypertension and irregular heartbeat. Lifestyle changes can help in prevention of heart failure by reducing and managing stress, maintaining a healthy weight, eating healthy food, staying physically fit and active, controlling blood pressure, and diabetes. For instance, in 2015, Amgen Inc. a U.S.-based company acquired Dezima Pharma, a Netherlands based company to expand its cardiovascular drug portfolio by adding cholesterol lowering drug TA-8995 to its portfolio. TA-8995 is a cholesterol lowering drug. Moreover, Europe congestive heart failure drugs market is expected to witness significant growth due to launch of new drugs to treat chronic diseases, which prevent heart failures. For instance, Novartis AG launched a drug named Entresto in 2016, in UK. Entresto is used to treat heart failure with minimum ejection fraction (measurement of percentage of blood leaving heart each time it contracts), it is an angiotensin receptor-neprilysin inhibitor. Moreover, high prevalence of cardiovascular diseases in Asia Pacific is expected to support the growth of congestive heart failure drugs market in this region. According to a study conducted by All India Institute of Medical Science (AIIMS) and **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** in 2016, India's younger population i.e. below 30 years of age are at a higher risk of developing cardiovascular diseases due to unhealthy lifestyle, alcohol consumption, and tobacco consumption.

[Hypopharyngeal Cancer Treatment Market Comprehensive analysis of all the factors that are expected to impact the growth rate by 2026](#)

August 08, 2019 / Business Intelligence

Hypopharyngeal cancer is the malignant tumor initiated in the cells of hypopharynx. Malignant cell of the hypopharyngeal cancer can metastasis into cervical lymph nodes, pharyngeal muscles, cranial nerves, larynx, thyroid, esophagus, lungs, liver or bone leading to secondary cancer. Hypopharyngeal cancer can be differentiated in the stages of cancer based on the size of the tumor. The early stages of hypopharyngeal cancer are asymptomatic whereas in late stages symptoms like sore throat, difficulty in swallowing, painful swallowing, weight loss or blood in mucus and saliva can be visible. Hypopharyngeal cancer can be diagnosed through X-ray, ultrasound, panendoscopy, biopsy, CT scan, MRI, PET scan or PET-CT scan. Treatment for hypopharyngeal cancer includes surgeries like transoral robotic surgery (TORS) and transoral videolaryngoscopic surgery or TOVS, chemotherapy and chemoradiotherapy, and targeted therapy. Researchers are also looking for more ways like transplantation and tissue grafting to rebuild cells post- surgery. Geographically, the hypopharyngeal cancer treatment market is segmented into North America, Latin America, Europe, Middle East, Asia Pacific and Africa. North America is expected to be dominant market over the forecast period owing to increasing research and developmental activities by locally present pharmaceutical companies. However, Asia Pacific is expected to be fastest growing hypopharyngeal cancer treatment market due to high incidence of hypopharyngeal cancer in the region. For example, According to **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** 2013, the incidence of hypopharyngeal cancer is relatively higher among males in India i.e. approximately 11% against 1% worldwide.

[HistoIndex, ILBS launch CoE for R&D on NASH](#)

August 08, 2019 / BSI bureau



HistoIndex, Singapore and the Institute of Liver & Biliary Sciences (ILBS) in New Delhi, India have jointly launched a Centre of Excellence (CoE) to aid diagnostics and clinical trials focusing on NASH. The CoE is HistoIndex's first Genesis Imaging Service (GIS) partner in India and joins the company's global network of medical, academic and referral laboratory partners who are involved in comprehensive clinical and scientific studies on NASH and other chronic liver conditions. The CoE was launched today during the Dr V. Ramalingaswami Oration and Hepatopathology Meeting 2019 at the ILBS. The CoE - an integration of HistoIndex's AI-based digital pathology expertise and ILBS's superior position as a national clinical and research institute for Hepatology - will be recognised as a top-notch clinical and research facility that will ultimately benefit the treatment options of patients afflicted with NASH or similar liver conditions. We are pleased to collaborate on the CoE in SHG imaging, which will be the first of its kind in India with immense potential to serve our country's healthcare sector." Said Professor Shiv Kumar Sarin, Director of the ILBS, Distinguished guests in attendance at the launch included Professor Balram Bhargava, Secretary, Department of Health Research, (Ministry of Health & Family Welfare), Government of India and Director General, **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)**, and Mr Lim Thuan Kuan, High Commissioner of Singapore in New Delhi.

[Government considers exempting new generation of stents from price controls](#)

August 09, 2019 / Livemint

NEW DELHI: The government is considering lifting price curbs on new generation of stents more than two years after its directive for a cap prompted companies to withdraw their products from the Indian market. A newly constituted committee on the National List of Essential Medicines, headed by Balram Bhargava, director-general of the **Indian Council of Medical Research**, is reviewing if all drug eluting stents (DES) are the same or whether a new category needed to be added, said two people aware of the matter. The panel has been meeting both Indian and foreign manufacturers of stents. The stent makers are of the view that quality and innovation should be rewarded and the high-end segment should be kept viable. Meril Life Sciences Pvt. Ltd has developed MeRes100, which it claims is the country's first locally made bioresorbable vascular scaffolds (BVS) for clearing blockages in arteries. The company has been insisting that its new-generation stents are the thinnest with high-performance delivery systems and hence should be treated separately and given an exemption from price caps.

[Our notions of motherhood](#)

August 09, 2019 / The Indian Express

The Lok Sabha passed the Surrogacy (Regulation) Bill 2019 on Tuesday. The Bill aims to regulate the practice of surrogacy in India and allow only "ethical altruistic surrogacy". The Bill was first introduced in the lower house in November 2016, then referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Health and Family Welfare. It was introduced and passed by the Lok Sabha again in December 2018

without incorporating most of the recommendations of the Committee, but lapsed. The 2019 Bill is identical to the Bill of 2018. India's jurisprudence recognises the reproductive autonomy of single persons, the rights of persons in live-in relationships and fundamental rights of transgenders. In *Navtej Singh Johar vs Union of India*, Supreme Court, having decriminalised consensual same-sex between consenting adults, held that the law cannot discriminate against same-sex partnerships and that it must "take positive steps to achieve equal protection". Single persons have the right to adopt children in India. The Bill is out of step with these developments. The Bill and its immediate ancestors significantly diverge from earlier, more rational policy positions. Guidelines issued by **Indian Council of Medical Research** in 2002 and the draft Assisted Reproductive Technologies (Regulation) Bills 2010 and 2014 had permitted commercial surrogacy. The shift to altruistic-only surrogacy was made in the context of sensational news reports about cases of surrogate babies being abandoned and exploited — surrogate mothers being kept in "surrogacy brothels" and rich foreigners using the bodies of poor Indian women to have children. In 2015, a public interest litigation, *Jayshree Wad vs Union of India*, was filed in the Supreme Court which cited these media reports and sought to end commercial surrogacy in India. Prompted by the court, the government declared in October 2015 that it did not support commercial surrogacy and would allow only infertile Indian couples to avail of altruistic surrogacy. The Surrogacy Bill of 2016 was a result of this change of intentions.

Woman dies of suspected dengue at hosp in Doon

August 09, 2019 / Times of India

Dehradun: In what is suspected to be the first dengue death in the state this season, a 26-year-old woman has died allegedly due to the vector-borne disease at Shri Mahant Indiresht Hospital (SMIH) here in the early hours of Thursday. According to sources, the woman was admitted to SMIH around 2 am and succumbed an hour later. The attendants of the patient created a ruckus at the hospital as soon as the news of her death was revealed. Meanwhile on Thursday, the total number of dengue cases rose to 254 with 9 new patients being diagnosed with the disease. Most of these cases are from Raipur and Karanpur. Alarmed about the first death in the state, the health department officials issued an urgent advisory to all schools directing them to ensure that students are properly dressed to protect them from mosquito bite. They also urged all government departments to spread awareness about the disease. In Dehradun, the worst affected areas are Raipur, Vani Vihar, Shanti Vihar and Tapovan. Taking note of the situation in the city, experts from **Indian Council of Medical Research** and National Institute of Malaria Research also visited the city on Wednesday and held discussions with medical and paramedical personnel.

Adult Vaccines Market Will Witness a Staggering Growth During 2017-2025

August 09, 2019 / Business Intelligence

Development of vaccines for various new diseases and rising awareness regarding advantages of preventive medication are the two prominent factors supporting growth of the market. For instance, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2015, flu vaccinations prevented around 1.9 million flu illnesses, 966,000 flu-associated medical visits, and around 67,000 flu-associated

hospitalizations, representing 6.5% lowering of disease burden. However, high complexity in cost of manufacturing a vaccine is one of the major factors negatively affecting growth of the market. Factors such as increasing number of government initiatives to prevent certain diseases and epidemic caused due to vaccine-preventable diseases. Additionally, increasing number of countries are conducting national immunization programs to provide vaccination and promote awareness regarding advantages of vaccination to fight fatal diseases with natural immunity among adults as well as children. For instance, in 2015, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the National Institutes of Health (NIH) partnered with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority (BARDA) to support the advanced development of new and better influenza vaccines, as a part of inter-agency government effort in the U.S. Among the middle-income and emerging economies, relevant Indian government funding agencies such as Department of Biotechnology (DBT) and The **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** are scaling up their investments in research and development associated to vaccine development. For instance, in 2015, the Department of Biotechnology projected a funding of US\$ 2.95 million for Malaria Vaccine Initiative, to develop vaccine against *Plasmodium falciparum* and *P. vivax*. On the other hand, growing awareness among the populace regarding prevention of diseases facilitated by vaccines is expected to augment the market growth over the forecast period.



Doctors and social workers Amte couple delivers keynote at event organised by Osmania Medical College

August 10, 2019 / The New Indian Express

HYDERABAD: Doctors and social workers, Prakash Baba Amte and Mandakini Amte, delivered the keynote address on the second day of OSMECON, the three-day event organised by Osmania Medical College, on Friday. Prakash Amte, in his speech, highlighted the roots of medicine as being in the provision of holistic care to individuals and the instructions he got from his father -- 'work with the people not for the people'. He told the students to follow their heart and achieve their dreams. Mandakini Amte spoke about various life lessons she learnt while working alongside people from the Tribal communities. Both their addresses earned standing ovations from the audience present for the event. OSMECON 2019 has drawn over 2,000 delegates from over 90 medical colleges across India and a few from Nepal, Russia and Ukraine. This year's event was inaugurated by **ICMR** DG Dr Soumya Swaminathan on Thursday and had 14 concurrent full-day workshops on the first day.

MoHFW seeks ICMR chief's examination of alleged IMS violations by Nestle

August 10, 2019 / fnbnews.com

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) has sought an examination from the director general, **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** of the alleged violations of the provisions of the Infant Milk Substitute (IMS) Act by Nestle. In the letter, Preeti Sudan, secretary, MoHFW, wrote that the Breastfeeding Promotion Network of India (BPNI), which was notified by the Government of India to monitor compliance of the IMS Act, has informed MoHFW regarding violation of

MS Act by Nestle India Limited and five participating hospitals, as per provisions of Section 9(2) of IMS Act, no producer, supplier or distributor referred to in Sub-section (1), shall offer or give any contribution or pecuniary benefits to a health worker or association of health worker, including funding of research work, sponsorship, etc. The matter was related to a clinical trial conducted by Nestle upon newly-born babies. In its letter to the ministry of health, BPNI wrote, “Perusal of clinical trial registry maintained by ICMR, has revealed that Nestle India Limited, a producer of IMS, is sponsoring research titled Multi-centric Observestional Study to observe growth in pre-term hospitalised infants, while the study is not even approved by any independent ethics committee.” Five hospitals were named by the BPNI in the letter. These included Cloudnine Hospital Bengaluru; Institute of Child Health, Kolkata; Manipal Hospital Bangaluru; Sir Ganga Ram Hospital New Delhi, and The Calcutta Medical Research Institute, Kolkata.

Should Next Gen DES Stents be removed from Price Cap- Govt Panel to Decide

August 10, 2019 / Medical Dialogues

NEW DELHI: In a bid to re-enter the market with advanced drug-eluting stents (DES), various medical device makers are in talks with the Government to categorise newly manufactured stents with advanced features separately and to go easy with the price control mechanism of the fresh generation of stents. In 2017, the prices of cardiac stents were capped by 85%, which came as a major setback to several global stent makers and many expensive stents were retracted from the market. Since then the stakeholders have been pressing the government to create a new category of stents with advanced features. It is learnt that Gujarat based global medical device manufacturer, Meril Life Sciences Pvt Ltd has been pressing upon the fact that its newly developed stents are the thinnest with a high-performance delivery system. Meril Life claims that the material used in making the stents are biodegradable in nature and can be used as a replacement for the metallic stents. Recently, the Government has been considering the proposal and has constituted a new committee on the National List of Essential Medicines led by **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** director Dr Balram Bhargava. The committee is reviewing whether all DES are the same or there is a need to add a new category. = The committee has been meeting manufacturers and stakeholders from India as well as abroad, who are supposed to provide adequate evidence if their product is superior. “Medical device makers have been meeting the committee members and scientists in Indian Council of Medical Research, with representations on their products. They have to substantiate if their product is superior,” sources told *Live Mint*.

Global Cell Line Development market examined in new research report

August 10, 2019 / WhaTech

According to International Agency for Research on Cancer, the number of new cancer cases per year is expected to rise to 23.6 million by 2030 globally. In recent times, cell line development and its applications are considered as potential tools in oncology research. Cell lines are projected to be used for development of new treatment pathway for various disease including cancer and neurological diseases.

According to a latest research by Future Market Insights (FMI), the global cell line development market size is anticipated to account for over US\$ 7,200 Mn, in terms of value, by 2028 end. The report on cell line development market further projects significant growth potential with CAGR at 7.2% through 2028. Rapid increase in prevalence of cancer and neurology disorders and lack of efficient treatment solution for these diseases has created the need of more advanced and efficient treatment pathway. Companies and government organizations are investing on research and development activities and are also focusing more on cell line development in search of new cellular pathway to develop novel drugs. The increased spending on biosimilar R&D from exiting biopharmaceutical companies would provide boost to cell line development market. In developing countries like India, government is supporting cell line development through national funding agencies like Department of Biotechnology (DBT), **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)**, and Department of Science and Technology (DST).



Bringing medicine and holistic art together at Hyderabad's most celebrated conferences for under-graduate medical students OSMECON 2019

August 11, 2019 / The New Indian Express

HYDERABAD: The tenth edition of OSMECON, one of Hyderabad's most celebrated conferences for under-graduate medical students, came to a jubilant close on Saturday, with over 2,000 student delegates participating from across India and countries including Nepal, Russia and Ukraine. The conference was inaugurated via video conferencing by a notable doctor and the former Director-General of ICMR, Dr Soumya Swaminathan, who is now chief scientist at the World Health Organization, Geneva. Speaking about the thrust areas of both the WHO and the **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)**, she advised the students to familiarise themselves with the ground realities in the lives of people coming to primary healthcare centres. The three-day conference was flagged-off on Thursday was fun with a creativity-inducing mix of debates, research presentations, poetry, poster-making and skill-based workshops. The themes chosen for OSMECON were in alignment with the WHO (global) and ICMR-DHR (national) thrust areas.

Muscular dystrophy patients seek a cheap Made in India drug

August 11, 2019 / Times of India

Families who have patients suffering from Duchene Muscular Dystrophy see a very small ray of hope as three people are doing research to develop drugs for this rare genetic disease. Even as they are ready to offer the patients for clinical trials, there is little help coming from the government. Bringing drugs from abroad is an extremely costly affair Nagpur: There is no cure or treatment available so far in India for children suffering from Duchene Muscular Dystrophy (DMD), a rare genetic disease. These children (boys) don't live beyond 18-20 years due to gradual degeneration and weakness in limb muscles finally affecting heart and lungs resulting in death. But scientists in three different institutes in Kolkata and Bengaluru have infused a ray of hope for the kids and their parents. They are nearing completion of basic work required for development of a medicine for the disease. DART, with support from Sinha, has already conducted a successful trial of a RNA-based molecule (antisense oligo-nucleotide or AON) on a single patient —

with permission from the **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** — at Bengaluru and has already applied for clinical trials for the same to the Drug Controller General of India (DCGI). But it will be another 10-12 years before these drugs are commercially available in the market.



IIT Kharagpur Researchers Innovate Ultra-Low-Cost Blood Test Device

August 13, 2019 / Careers360

Researchers from IIT Kharagpur have developed an ultra-low-cost diagnostic device which can perform various pathological tests by using a tiny drop of blood taken from a finger-prick. The team led by Professor Suman Chakraborty from the Dept. of Mechanical Engineering at IIT Kharagpur has adopted this detection method which is virtually instrument-free and requires only a paper strip based kit integrated with a smartphone to enable analytics and readout functions and an LED light for imaging. The key aspect of the device which has been addressed by Prof. Chakraborty is the operational simplicity of the device and extremely low running cost. The technology, process and limited use of consumables have significantly brought down the cost of each blood test. While under laboratory conditions each test cost Rs. 1 or even less, the cost is expected to marginally vary in case of commercialized product. The background research work has been supported by the Royal Academy of Engineering, United Kingdom, Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, Govt. of India, Department of Electronics and IT, Govt. of India, Department of Science and Technology, Govt. of India, **Indian Council of Medical Research** and Ministry of Human Resources Development, Govt. of India through the IMPRINT India initiative, in various stages.

India CRO Market to Generate huge revenue with Rapidly Expanding Clinical Trials Number by the end of 2023

August 13, 2019 / Global Banking And Finance Review

The India contract research organization (CRO) market is advancing steadily with the demand for CRO services surging at a CAGR of 12% over the forecast period of 2013-2022, claims Market Research Future (MRFR) in a detailed research report. Increasing number of clinical trials in India along with the subsequent complexities associated with them has necessitated the outsourcing of various processes in the manufacture of drugs. The cost of R&D of drugs is substantially less than that in developed countries due to which India attracts a high number of collaborative contract proposals for conducting clinical trials. To capitalize on the economic benefit provided in India, various market players are coming forward to set up their CROs in India which also adds fuel to the growth of India CRO market. India boasts of a well-trained workforce and state-of-the-art facilities which acts a plus for the growth of the market. The presence of diverse ethnic pool allows a myriad of samples which assists in clinical studies. In addition, India is rapidly adapting to global standards which have created a conducive environment for the growth of the CRO market in India. Regulatory authorities such as Director Controller General of India (DCGI), Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT), **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)**, and Department of Biotechnology (DBT) are endeavoring towards creating a favorable environment for clinical trials in India. Besides, the government of India has made amendments to various laws relating to clinical trials which further establishes a progressive backdrop for the growth of

the India CRO market. On the other hand, concerns for data security, and mediocre management practices might constrain the growth of the market over the forecast period. The India CRO market is expected to reach around USD 1973.82 Mn by the end of the forecast period.



Infertility experts recommend right treatment at right time

August 13, 2019 / Outlook India

New Delhi, Aug 13 Given an alarming rise in infertility rate in India, experts have said proper education and counselling on reproductive health is very essential for couples. Experts say right treatment at the right time is key to overcome the problem of infertility. The World Health Organisation states that infertility is a disease of the reproductive system, defined by the failure to achieve a clinical pregnancy after 12 months or more of regular unprotected sexual intercourse. According to WHO estimates, around 60-80 million couples worldwide currently suffer from infertility. According to **Indian Council of Medical Research** estimates, the incidence of infertility in India is at approximately 4 per cent. In the different age groups, the overall prevalence of primary infertility is estimated to be between 3.9 and 16.8 per cent. Delay in pregnancy, age, and sedentary lifestyle (tobacco, smoking, diet, stress) are the main reasons for the rising infertility in the country. The latest data showed the prevalence of stress among young adults around the world is estimated to range from 5-70 per cent, said Shivani Sachdeva, founder-Director of SCI IVF Hospital. This stress further gives rise to various other problems of which infertility of both men and women is on the rise. Both sexes contribute to different risk factors. Infertility in men can be due to alcohol and drug use, toxins, smoking, age, health problems like obesity, medicines like testosterone, radiation, excessive testicular heat, and chemotherapy.

Living legend award for nutrition scientist

August 13, 2019 / The Hindu

Nutrition scientist Coluthur Gopalan, regarded the father of nutrition research in India, was conferred with the first 'FANS Living Legend Award' by Federation of Asian Nutrition Societies (FANS) at its meeting held during the 13th Asian Congress of Nutrition in Bali last week. Dr. Gopalan has served as Director of **ICMR**-National Institute of Nutrition (ICMR-NIN) from 1961-1973 with research under his leadership forming the basis for major national nutrition programmes initiated in the 1970s. After serving as Director General, ICMR (1974-79), he established the Nutrition Foundation of India (NFI) and has been its president since then. He was the founder of Nutrition Society of India (NSI) and also FANS founding-member and continues to be its honorary executive member. He is also a recipient of Padma Shri and Padma Bhushan from the Government of India, lifetime achievement award from the National Academy of Medical Sciences (NAMS); fellowship of Royal Society, U.K.; fellowship of International Union of Nutrition Sciences (IUNS) and has received the living legend award of IUNS in the past.

'FANS-Living Legend Award' for Dr C Gopalan

August 13, 2019 / The New Indian Express



HYDERABAD: Dr Coluthur Gopalan, the centenarian nutrition scientist who is often regarded as the father-figure of nutrition research in India, was conferred with the first FANS-Living Legend Award by the Federation of Asian Nutrition Societies (FANS), at a meeting held during the 13th Asian Congress of Nutrition in Bali Indonesia recently. Dr Gopalan celebrated his birth centenary last year. He had served as the Director of ICMR- National Institute of Nutrition (ICMR-NIN) from 1961 to 1973. Research under his leadership had formed the basis of major national nutrition programmes initiated in the 1970s - ICDS, Massive Dose Vitamin-A and Iron supplementation. After serving as the Director-General of **ICMR**, he established the Nutrition Foundation of India (NFI) and has been its President since then.

Cell Line Development Market to Observe Strong Development of US\$ 7,200 Mn by 2028

August 13, 2019 / Business News Standard

According to International Agency for Research on Cancer, the number of new cancer cases per year is expected to rise to 23.6 million by 2030 globally. In recent times, cell line development and its applications are considered as potential tools in oncology research. Cell lines are projected to be used for development of new treatment pathway for various disease including cancer and neurological diseases. According to a latest research by Future Market Insights (FMI), the global cell line development market size is anticipated to account for over US\$ 7,200 Mn, in terms of value, by 2028 end. The report on cell line development market further projects significant growth potential with CAGR at 7.2% through 2028. In recent time the contract research organizations are focusing on cell line development and cell line research activities. According to National Institutes of Health (NIH) the estimated total federal spending on all type of stem cell line research for 2017 is US\$ 1.58 Bn. In developing countries like India, government is supporting cell line development through national funding agencies like Department of Biotechnology (DBT), **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)**, and Department of Science and Technology (DST). Regenerative medicines are the next generation treatment solution and Cell Line Development or Cell Culture is a vital part for regenerative medicine. Increasing demand of regenerative medicines in cancer treatment would positively impacting the growth of Cell Line Development market over the forecast period.

159 free tests on India's first diagnostics list

August 15, 2019/ Hindustan Times

The **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** has finalized the country's first National Essential Diagnostics List (NEDL) that recommends that at least 159 tests should be made available for patients in even rudimentary government health facilities. The list is on the lines of the essential drugs list, the National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM) which was first released in 1996 and last updated in 2015. The diagnostics list mentions 105 general laboratory tests for a broad range of common conditions, 30 disease-specific tests such as for HIV, hepatitis, tuberculosis, and 24 imaging tests including X-rays, CT and MRI scans and

ultrasound sonography. "India is the first country to compile such a list that should provide guidance to the government for deciding the kind of diagnostic tests that different healthcare facilities in villages and remote areas require. The list is meant for facilities from village till the district level," says Dr Kamini Walia, senior scientist, ICMR. Walia led the team from ICMR that compiled the list. The experts from ICMR, health ministry and other organizations started work on compiling the list in March last year.



E-cigarettes: Current Scenario and Challenges in India

August 15, 2019/ ETHealthworld

While India continues its fight against rampant tobacco use, especially cigarette smoking, policymakers are still grappling to understand the concept of e-cigarettes. E-cigarettes or Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems (ENDS) are innovative clean nicotine delivery systems that involve no combustion and therefore produce reduced emissions and toxic byproducts by at least an order of magnitude. World-over, ENDS are now touted as a proven tool for reducing harm caused by cigarette smoking. Undoubtedly, they also have immense potential for improving public health outcomes of a tobacco-dependent population like India's. The Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in 2018 issued an advisory to all states recommending them to prohibit the sale, manufacture or use of ENDS. Even the **Indian Council of Medical Research** has advocated for a pan-Indian prohibition on ENDS. This is in stark contrast to the path of comprehensive regulation adopted by countries such as the UK, New Zealand, Canada and European Union as a whole, keeping in sight the larger picture of maximizing the population-level benefits through less harmful alternatives like ENDS.

The Surrogacy (Regulation) Bill 2019: A casual approach to a serious concern

August 15, 2019/ Business Today

The **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** made the first attempt at regulating surrogacy in 2005 by drafting the National Guidelines for Accreditation, Supervision and Regulation of ART (Assisted Reproductive Technology) Clinics in India - the clinics that treat infertility, like in-vitro fertilisation (IVF), and offer surrogacy services. This led to drafting of the ART Bill in 2008, 2010 and 2014 but was never passed by the Parliament. Then the Law Commission of India took it up in 2009 recognising the need for regulating ART clinics and providing for rights and obligations of parties to surrogacy. It recommended allowing only 'altruistic' surrogacy and a ban on commercial surrogacy. What followed, however, was the Surrogacy (Regulation) Bill of 2016. It was examined by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Health and Family Welfare. In its 2017 report the panel suggested wholesome changes and suggested that the ART Bill should be brought first since "there are no separate surrogacy clinics as such" and that "generally ART clinics offer surrogacy services as well", concluding that "the need of the hour, hence, is to regulate all ART clinics".

National Institute of Nutrition director now part of international nutrition society



August 15, 2019/ The New Indian Express

HYDERABAD: Dr R Hemalatha, director of **ICMR**-National Institute of Nutrition, has been unanimously elected as a member of the executive committee of Federation of Asian Nutrition Societies (FANS) for a period of four years from 2019 to 2023. FANS is an international body that brings together professional nutrition societies and associations from across Asia, aims to foster international fellowship among nutrition scientists of the region and promote cooperative working arrangements, particularly in the furtherance of nutrition research, training and action programmes in the region. In her new role, Dr Hemalatha, along with all the newly-elected office-bearers, will encourage the exchange of information and experiences in nutrition research, training and action programmes among the member countries. She is known for her extensive research in the realm of nutrition, infection and immunity, with special emphasis on women and child health. She has contributed significantly in the area of preconception nutrition and the first 1,000 days of life.

India gets its first national essential diagnostics list

August 16, 2019/ The Hindu

India has got its first National Essential Diagnostics List (NEDL) finalised by the **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** which aims to bridge the current regulatory system's gap that do not cover all the medical devices and in-vitro diagnostic device (IVD). The current system is equipped to manage only the few notified devices. With this, India has become the first country to compile such a list that would provide guidance to the government for deciding the kind of diagnostic tests that different healthcare facilities in villages and remote areas require. WHO released first edition of essential diagnostics list (EDL) in May 2018. Even though WHO's EDL acts as a reference point for development of national EDL, India's diagnostics list has been customised and prepared as per landscape of India's health care priorities. NEDL builds upon the Free Diagnostics Service Initiative.

Pune: ICMR to set up clinical trial platform, help bring down cost of drugs

August 17, 2019/ The Indian Express

In a first, the **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** will set up a clinical trial platform at both the national and regional level for evaluating newer drugs. The move comes in the wake of the Nipah outbreak in Kerala. "There was a big scare in the way the Nipah virus outbreak was evolving. It was effectively contained but it has thrown several challenges that have to be addressed," said Dr R R Gangakhedkar, head of the Epidemiology division at ICMR. "We are bringing all medical research councils of the region together on August 26 and August 27, so that we can float a concept of setting up a regional clinical trial platform for research. For instance, if India wants to take a lead for monoclonal antibody testing to neutralise Nipah virus then the samples from within the country are few as the occurrences are less common. But they are more common in Bangladesh," Dr Gangakhedkar, who also has additional charge as Director of National Institute of Virology (NIV), told The Indian Express.

[Govt mulling options to enforce ban on e-cigarettes, nicotine flavoured hookahs](#)



August 18, 2019/ The Economic Times

The government is mulling various options including bringing an ordinance to enforce a ban on manufacture, sale and import of ENDS devices including e-cigarettes if it fails to get a reprieve from the Delhi High Court, which had earlier stayed its order to ban such products, sources said. Banning such alternative smoking devices like e-cigarettes, heat-not-burn devices, vape and e-nicotine flavoured hookah among others, is one of the priorities of the Health ministry as part of the first 100 days agenda of the second term of the Modi government. With more than 75 days having passed, the Union health ministry has swung into action wanting to implement the ban on the manufacture, sale, distribution and import of Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems (ENDS). The proposal stated that under the provisions of 'drugs' in the Act, any item intended to be used as an aid to help quit smoking is covered under the definition of drugs. Apex research body - the **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** has recommended a "complete ban" on ENDS, saying their use can initiate nicotine addiction among non-smokers also. In a white paper, the ICMR said e-cigarettes adversely affect the cardiovascular system, impairs respiratory immune cell function and airways in a way similar to cigarette smoking and is responsible for severe respiratory diseases.

[Govt mulling options to enforce ban on e-cigarettes, nicotine flavoured hookahs](#)

August 18, 2019/ ETHealthworld

The government is mulling various options including bringing an ordinance to enforce a ban on manufacture, sale and import of ENDS devices including e-cigarettes if it fails to get a reprieve from the Delhi High Court, which had earlier stayed its order to ban such products, sources said. Banning such alternative smoking devices like e-cigarettes, heat-not-burn devices, vape and e-nicotine flavoured hookah among others, is one of the priorities of the Health ministry as part of the first 100 days agenda of the second term of the Modi government. With more than 75 days having passed, the Union health ministry has swung into action wanting to implement the ban on the manufacture, sale, distribution and import of Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems (ENDS). The proposal stated that under the provisions of 'drugs' in the Act, any item intended to be used as an aid to help quit smoking is covered under the definition of drugs. Apex research body - the **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** has recommended a "complete ban" on ENDS, saying their use can initiate nicotine addiction among non-smokers also. In a white paper, the ICMR said e-cigarettes adversely affect the cardiovascular system, impairs respiratory immune cell function and airways in a way similar to cigarette smoking and is responsible for severe respiratory diseases.

[Specialists urge ICMR to reconsider its recommendations on banning ENDS](#)

August 19, 2019/ Outlook India

New Delhi, Aug 19 More than 60 specialists in nicotine, science and medicine have urged the ICMR to reconsider its recommendation of prohibiting e-cigarettes, citing a critical appraisal by experts which stated that the apex research body's white paper did not present a balanced overview on the issue and has failed to justify the ban. Sixty-two experts from 20 countries, including India, have written to Director

General of the **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** Dr Balram Bhargava in response to ICMR's "White Paper on Electronic Nicotine Delivery System", published on May 31, recommending a "complete" ban on such "alternative" smoking devices saying their use can initiate nicotine addiction among non-smokers. In the white paper, the ICMR also said e-cigarettes adversely affect the cardiovascular system, impair respiratory immune cell function and airways in a way similar to cigarette smoking and is responsible for severe respiratory diseases. In their letter, the specialists have cited a critical appraisal co-authored by Konstantinos Farsalinos of National School of Public Health, Greece, Riccardo Polosa of the Department of Clinical and Experimental Medicine, University of Catania, Italy, and Dr Atul Ambekar of AIIMS, also chairperson of the Addictive Disorder Specialty Section, Indian Psychiatric Society.



Specialists urge ICMR to reconsider its recommendations on banning ENDS

August 19, 2019/ ETHealthworld

New Delhi: More than 60 specialists in nicotine, science and medicine have urged the ICMR to reconsider its recommendation of prohibiting e-cigarettes, citing a critical appraisal by experts which stated that the apex research body's white paper did not present a balanced overview on the issue and has failed to justify the ban. Sixty-two experts from 20 countries, including India, have written to Director General of the **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** Dr Balram Bhargava in response to ICMR's "White Paper on Electronic Nicotine Delivery System", published on May 31, recommending a "complete" ban on such "alternative" smoking devices saying their use can initiate nicotine addiction among non-smokers. In the white paper, the ICMR also said e-cigarettes adversely affect the cardiovascular system, impair respiratory immune cell function and airways in a way similar to cigarette smoking and is responsible for severe respiratory diseases.

e-cigarettes can lead to nicotine addiction in non-smokers

August 20, 2019/ The Tribune

Use of e-cigarettes by non-smokers can lead to nicotine addiction and regular smoking. "Studies have found that youths using e-cigarettes are more likely to use regular cigarettes later. E-cigarettes increase the likelihood to experiment with regular tobacco products and increase intention to indulge in smoking," said Dr Rakesh Kapoor, Department of Radiotherapy, PGIMER. Electronic nicotine delivery system (ENDS) or e-cigarettes are devices that do not burn or use tobacco leaves as in case of traditional cigarettes, but instead vapourise a flavoured solution which the user inhales. The solution contains a varying concentration of nicotine, an addictive chemical found in cigarettes and other forms of tobacco products. The World Health Organisation has not yet certified e-cigarettes to be a safe alternative to cigarettes as the emissions from electronic cigarettes contain chemicals, some of them considered to be toxicants. A recent report prepared by the **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** states that these devices also contain other ingredients as flavouring agents and vapourisers which are also found to be harmful for health. The e-cigarettes produce an aerosolised mixture of the flavoured liquids and nicotine, which is inhaled by the user. Nicotine is considered as one of the most addictive substances and it poses the potential risk of a person being addicted to it throughout life.

[ICMR launches adjunct faculty scheme to promote bio-medical research](#)



August 20, 2019/ BSI bureau

Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), New Delhi, is launching adjunct faculty scheme to develop and promote strong collaboration among medical, academic and scientific institutions. ICMR as part of the scheme will fund biomedical research both through intramural as well as extramural mode. The scientists both at the ICMR headquarters and its nationwide network of 26 institutes will be coordinating and carrying out these research activities. During their career the scientists have excelled in the area of their expertise and are updated by interacting with scientists from other organisations both national and international. ICMR circular mentioned that, “In order to apprise our scientists about the activities and the latest practises being undertaken at academic institutions it is desirable that the faculty from medical/academic institutions like medical colleges, universities and other institutions are given opportunity to spend some time at ICMR Hqrs and Institutes to get acquainted with the research being carried out and will also provide them insight into our research efforts being carried out and the trends.” At the same time ICMR scientists will be exposed to academic knowledge by regular interactions with faculty from these academic institutions.

[Health Ministry Mulls Bringing Ordinance to enforce ban on e-cigarettes, nicotine flavoured hookahs](#)

August 20, 2019/ Medical Dialogues

NEW DELHI: The government is mulling various options like bringing an ordinance to enforce a ban on the manufacture, sale and import of ENDS devices, including e-cigarettes if it fails to get a reprieve from the Delhi High Court, which had earlier stayed its order to ban such products, sources said. Banning such alternative smoking devices like e-cigarettes, heat-not-burn devices, vape and e-nicotine flavored hookah, among others is one of the priorities of the Health Ministry as part of the first 100 days agenda of the second term of the Modi government. With more than 75 days have passed, the Union Health Ministry has swung into action wanting to implement the ban on the manufacture, sale, distribution and import of Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems (ENDS). In June, the Drug Technical Advisory Board (DTAB), the government’s top advisory body on technical matters related to medicines in the country, approved the Health Ministry’s proposal of classifying ENDS devices, including e-cigarettes as “drugs” under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act. The proposal stated that under the provisions of ‘drugs’ in the Act, any item intended to be used as an aid to help quit smoking is covered under the definition of drugs. Apex research body – the **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** has recommended a “complete ban” on ENDS, saying their use can initiate nicotine addiction among non-smokers also. In a white paper, the ICMR said e-cigarettes adversely affect the cardiovascular system, impairs respiratory immune cell function and airways in a way similar to cigarette smoking and is responsible for severe respiratory diseases.

[Specialists urge ICMR to reconsider its recommendations on banning ENDS](#)



August 20, 2019/ Devdiscourse

More than 60 specialists in nicotine, science and medicine have urged the ICMR to reconsider its recommendation of prohibiting e-cigarettes, citing a critical appraisal by experts which stated that the apex research body's white paper did not present a balanced overview on the issue and has failed to justify the ban. Sixty-two experts from 20 countries, including India, have written to Director General of the **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** Dr Balam Bhargava in response to ICMR's "White Paper on Electronic Nicotine Delivery System", published on May 31, recommending a "complete" ban on such "alternative" smoking devices saying their use can initiate nicotine addiction among non-smokers. In the white paper, the ICMR also said e-cigarettes adversely affect the cardiovascular system, impair respiratory immune cell function and airways in a way similar to cigarette smoking and is responsible for severe respiratory diseases. In their letter, the specialists have cited a critical appraisal co-authored by Konstantinos Farsalinos of National School of Public Health, Greece, Riccardo Polosa of the Department of Clinical and Experimental Medicine, University of Catania, Italy, and Dr Atul Ambekar of AIIMS, also chairperson of the Addictive Disorder Specialty Section, Indian Psychiatric Society.

[George Institute hosts India's first Rapid Evidence Synthesis Unit in collaboration with NHSRC](#)

August 21, 2019/ Mirage News

The George Institute for Global Health, India (TGI) in collaboration with the National Health Systems Resource Centre (NHSRC), and with support from WHO Alliance for Health Policy and Systems Research, has established India's first Rapid Evidence Synthesis (RES) unit. The goal is to provide RES products that are rigorous, unbiased, and developed on-demand through continuous engagement with stakeholders. To ensure that health policy makers and systems managers have capacity to carry out evidence synthesis, the unit organised the first of a series of workshops which began in the Capital on August 19. Dr Anju Sinha, Scientist-F and Deputy Director General, **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)**, delivered the inaugural address. Apart from faculty members drawn from The George Institute India, Dr Shalu Jain from the Department of Health Research, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, was also one of the workshop facilitators.

[Specialists speak out against govt. push against ENDS](#)

August 21, 2019/ Mirage News

Experts have spoken out against the Centre's push against e-cigarettes and other electronic nicotine delivery systems (ENDS), questioning the merits of an **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** paper concerning the devices' effects on health. Writing to the ICMR Director-General, the 62 experts from across twenty countries asserted that the Council's claims about the detrimental effects of using ENDS are based on selective evidence, failing to offer a balanced overview of what the broader consensus and body of evidence concerning ENDS actually suggests. As such, they noted that the position of the ICMR – and, by extension, the Centre – is contrary to most public health bodies and the scientific community, who promote the use of ENDS as a smoking cessation tool.

[Proposed ban on Electronic Nicotine Systems: Trade reps urge health ministry to re-look](#)



August 21, 2019/ ETHealthworld

New Delhi: An umbrella body of trade representatives promoting Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems (ENDS) including e-cigarettes on Wednesday questioned the rationale behind the government's move to ban the import, distribution and sale of such products and urged the health ministry to re-look into the matter. The voluntary association of Trade Representatives of ENDS in India (TRENDS) comprising importers, distributors, and marketers of such "alternative" smoking devices had earlier suggested that the ministry initiate a consultative process so that opinion of all stakeholders can be heard and facts placed in the correct perspective. ENDS are devices that heat a solution to create an aerosol, which also frequently contains flavours, usually dissolved into propylene glycol and glycerin. There are various types of ENDS devices like e-cigarettes, heat-not-burn devices, vape, e-sheesha, e-nicotine flavoured hookah among others. Over 62 specialists in nicotine, science, policy and medicine have in a signed letter urged the Director General, **ICMR** to reconsider its recommendations on ENDS, rebutting each of the four points on which ICMR had based its recommendation.

[Proposed ban on Electronic Nicotine Systems: Trade representatives urge health ministry to re-look](#)

August 21, 2019/ Moneycontrol

An umbrella body of trade representatives promoting Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems (ENDS) including e-cigarettes on August 21 questioned the rationale behind the government's move to ban the import, distribution and sale of such products and urged the health ministry to re-look into the matter. The voluntary association of Trade Representatives of ENDS in India (TRENDS) comprising importers, distributors, and marketers of such "alternative" smoking devices had earlier suggested that the ministry initiate a consultative process so that opinion of all stakeholders can be heard and facts placed in the correct perspective. ENDS are devices that heat a solution to create an aerosol, which also frequently contains flavours, usually dissolved into propylene glycol and glycerin. Over 62 specialists in nicotine, science, policy and medicine have in a signed letter urged the Director General, **ICMR** to reconsider its recommendations on ENDS, rebutting each of the four points on which ICMR had based its recommendation.

[Details on shifting of CRME sought](#)

August 21, 2019/ The Hindu

The Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court on Wednesday directed the Centre to submit details on the decision to merge the **Indian Council of Medical Research's (ICMR)** Centre for Research in Medical Entomology (CRME) in Madurai with the Vector Control Research Centre (VCRC) in Puducherry. A Division Bench of Justices M. Sathyanarayanan and B. Pugalendhi directed the Director General of ICMR and the Director of ICMR-CRME to file a report on how the centre for research would be put to use in Madurai, after it was submitted that a policy decision was taken to merge ICMR-CRME with ICMR-VCRC. It was submitted that ICMR-CRME would continue to function as a field station of ICMR-VCRC.

[Industry Representatives Urge Relook At Proposed E-Cigarette Ban In India](#)



August 21, 2019/ BloombergQuint

A clutch of industry representatives on Wednesday questioned the rationale behind the government's proposed ban on e-cigarettes and similar vaping devices in India. In a submission to the health ministry, Trade Representatives of Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems urged a re-look into the proposed ban on import, distribution and sale of vaping devices in India. It had earlier suggested initiation of a consultative process so that opinion of all stakeholders can be heard and facts are placed in the correct perspective. Over 62 specialists in nicotine, science, policy and medicine have in a signed letter urged the Director General of Indian Council of Medical Research to reconsider its recommendations on ENDS, rebutting each of the four points on which **ICMR** had based its recommendation. The experts claimed that the ICMR paper fails to present a balanced overview of the risk-benefit ratio of ENDS, vis-a-vis other combustible tobacco products, and therefore recommendations for a ban are not justified.

[Elimination of lymphatic filariasis still a challenge](#)

August 22, 2019/ The Hindu

Vector-borne diseases have gained significance in recent years with several States reporting a surge in malaria, dengue, chikungunya, etc., year after year. While there is awareness about these, not many know that lymphatic filariasis is another preventable vector-borne disease that needs to be tackled effectively to meet the Health Ministry's target of eliminating it in India by 2020. Although the compliance rate (consumption of drugs) has gone up from 35% to 65% over the years, the need of the hour is to achieve 80%, according to doctors involved in chalking out elimination strategies. A lack of an integrated approach with multi-sectoral involvement in tackling the disease has added to the problem, they said. Presently, India has 256 endemic districts across 16 States and five Union Territories including nine endemic districts in Karnataka. According to **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)**, India still has over 2.3 crore people suffering with lifelong disability due to lymphatic filariasis (LF).

[Experts disagree with ICMR recommendations on Electronic Nicotine delivery Systems](#)

August 22, 2019/ APN News

Sixty-two leading specialists in nicotine science, policy and medicine have written to the Director General of the **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** in response to ICMR's "White Paper on Electronic Nicotine Delivery System", which was published on May 31, 2019. The experts' letter draws upon the findings of an elaborate Critical Appraisal of the Scientific Evidence cited in the ICMR White Paper and challenges ICMR's radical recommendation of complete prohibition on ENDS or e-cigarettes, claiming that these views are in contradiction of the broad consensus amongst the scientific community. The letter, signed by experts from 20 countries, including India, urges ICMR to reconsider its recommendation of banning e-cigarettes. The Critical Appraisal has been co-authored by renowned global experts Konstantinos Farsalinos of National School of Public Health, Greece, Riccardo Polosa of the Department of Clinical and Experimental Medicine,

University of Catania, Italy, and *Dr. Atul Ambekar* of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi and Chairperson of the Addictive Disorder Specialty Section, Indian Psychiatric Society. The experts claim that the ICMR White Paper fails to present a balanced overview of the risk-benefit ratio of ENDS vis-à-vis other combustible tobacco products and therefore, their recommendations for e-cigarette ban are not justified. The Critical Appraisal systematically reviews the four key arguments made by ICMR and presents evidence to counter them.



HC seeks documents on merger of CRME with VCRC

August 22, 2019/ Times of India

Madurai: The Madras high court has directed the central government to produce documents on the decision to merge the Centre for Research in Medical Entomology (CRME) of the **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** in Madurai with Vector Control Research Centre (VCRC) in Puducherry. When the petition, filed by K K Ramesh in 2017, was heard on Wednesday, a division bench of justice M Sathyanarayanan and justice B Pugalendhi directed the director general of ICMR, New Delhi and director of ICMR in Madurai to file a report on how the centre would be put to use after the central government submitted that a policy decision was taken to merge ICMR-CRME with VCRC in Puducherry. Stating that ICMR-CRME was functioning in Madurai for the past 30 years, the petitioner opposed the decision taken for the merger. He added that CRME played a major role in management of outbreak of diseases and it should continue to function in Madurai.

E-cigarette ban: Industry renews appeal against it

August 22, 2019/ Hyderus Cyf

The Trade Representatives of ENDS in India (TRENDS) has implored the Union Health Ministry to reconsider its intention to ban electronic nicotine delivery systems (ENDS). In August last year, the Ministry exhorted state governments to ban the devices whilst working to effect a policy of prohibition at the national level. This has not been a smooth process. Earlier this year, the Delhi High Court ruled against the Ministry's directive to state governments while the Union Trade Ministry has frustrated efforts to ban the import of ENDS into India, citing the lack of a legal basis to do so. Despite the support of state governments, bodies, and regulators, the manoeuvre has encountered criticism from experts. This was discernible in a letter sent by 62 experts earlier this week, critical of a white paper issued by the **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** calling for ENDS to be banned and calling for the Council to reconsider their recommendations for a blanket ban on the devices.

National ban on new types of tobacco introduction like E- Cigarettes is required - Dr. Kirit Bhai Solanki MP

August 22, 2019/ Outlook India

The following content is a press release. takes no editorial responsibility for the same.) Every fifth adult in India (21.4%; 199.4 million) currently uses smokeless tobacco New Delhi: Tobacco kills more than 1 million people each year in India (home to the second greatest number of smokers in the world). Additionally, tens of

millions use deadly smokeless or chewing tobacco products. In fact, approximately 130 million people of age 15 and older in India currently smoke and roughly half of all adults are exposed to second-hand smoke at home. There are approximately 1.10 crore tobacco users and almost a third of them (35.6 crore) use tobacco in the form of smokeless tobacco products. Smokeless tobacco refers to tobacco products that are consumed without smoking usually through mouth and nose. According to **Indian Council of Medical Research** almost 65 % of the world Smokeless Tobacco users in India, the need of the hour is to undertake a national mission to fight smokeless tobacco. "As a medical practitioner and as a Member of Parliament I am concerned about the usage of smokeless tobacco in India. Smokeless tobacco is very harmful substance causing cancer and ban in all states should be taken seriously by Health Ministry.



Vaping is harmful too: ICMR

August 23, 2019/ Telangana Today

Hyderabad: In the last few years, Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems (ENDS) or e-cigarettes have become quite a rage among youth across the country. The fact, however, remains that they contain a varying degree of nicotine, which is highly addictive, prompting the **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** to recommend their complete ban in May. In a white paper on ENDS prepared by an expert group led by president of Public Health Foundation of India (PHFI) Dr K Srinath Reddy, the ICMR said e-cigarettes contain nicotine solution, which is addictive, apart from other ingredients such as flavouring agents and vapourisers that are harmful to health. ENDS has documented adverse effects on humans which include damage to DNA, carcinogenesis, cellular, molecular and immunological toxicity, respiratory cardiovascular and neurological disorders and adverse impact on foetal development during pregnancy, the report said.

Study: India's meat and egg consumption very low

August 23, 2019/ Deccan Chronicle

KRISHNAGIRI: India's domestic consumption of meat products remains far low against the recommendations of the **Indian Council of medical research (ICMR)** though the country ranks third and fourth place in the world in terms of egg and chicken meat production, respectively. This was highlighted in the one-day workshop titled "Strategies to augment the potential and opportunities on export of poultry egg and meat". The event was held on Thursday in the 'college of poultry production and management (CPPM)-Hosur' and run by the Tamil Nadu veterinary and animal science university. The workshop for the people already in the poultry industry was inaugurated by the district collector Dr S Prabhakar; the souvenir was released by the vice-chancellor for the Tamil Nadu veterinary and animal science university Dr C. Balachandaran, CPPM dean Dr K. Mani, Dr P. Shamsudeen and others participated. "Our country's poultry industry grows at an average of seven per cent to eight per cent and we are placed in the fourth place in chicken meat production and in terms of egg India ranks third place in the world," Balachandaran said. He added, "per capita consumption in India is far low against the recommendations of ICMR. The council recommended consuming 10.5 kilos of poultry meat and 180 eggs per annum. Each person consumes just 3.5 kilos of meat and 30 eggs. This needs to be improved."

Explaining E-Cigarettes in India: To Ban or Not to Ban?

August 23, 2019/ The Quint



There's a renewed push to get e-cigarettes or Electronic Nicotine Delivery System (ENDS) into India. On 31 May, the **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** released a white paper calling for the total banning of ENDS in India. To counter this, 62 global specialists and members of the Trade Representatives of ENDS (TRENDS) in India (a group of distributors, importers, retailers of ENDS) have now questioned and countered ICMR's position. There has been a long history of proving and disproving benefits of vaping since its introduction in early 2000. In August 2018, the Ministry of Health issued an advisory against ENDS – calling nicotine a tumor promoter with multiple adverse health effects – which led to its ban in 16 states in India. In March, the CDSCO directed all drug controllers in states and UTs not to allow the manufacture, sale, import and advertisement of ENDS in their jurisdictions. Banning alternative smoking devices is also on the Modi Government's 100 day agenda, and the Delhi High Court is set to hear the matter of the ban on 22 August.

With regards,
Syed Adil Shamim Andrabi
Information Interface Officer/PRO
Indian Council of Medical Research-
Department of Health Research
Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
proicmr@gmail.com, syed.adil@icmr.gov.in
Ext. 286, Phone. 26589130