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**Review Statement to be laid on the table of the Rajya Sabha along with the Annual Report and Annual Accounts together with Audit Report thereon for the year 2021-22 in respect of Indian Council of Medical Research, New Delhi**

The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) is an autonomous body under Department of Health Research, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India. It is the apex and premier medical research organization in the country which spearheads planning, formulation, coordination, implementation and promotion of biomedical research. It is one of the oldest medical research bodies in the world. In 1911, Government of India made a historic decision to establish Indian Research Fund Association (IRFA) with the specific objectives of sponsoring and coordinating medical research in the country. After Independence, in 1949, the IRFA was re-designated as the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) with considerable expansion in its functions and activities. The following are the activities undertaken by ICMR during 2021-22:

1. ICMR played a pivotal role at each step during COVID-19 pandemic, right from isolating virus, diagnostic labs establishment, development & validation of kits, policy framing, data collection & maintenance, formulating guidelines for prevention & treatment for all age groups, vaccine development and scientific knowledge publication.
2. Remarkable moment of the year was the inauguration of new state-of-the-art building of ICMR-Regional Medical Research Centre, Gorakhpur (ICMR-RMRCGKP) by Hon'ble Prime Minister on 7<sup>th</sup> December 2021, to expand research activities in Eastern Uttar Pradesh (UP).
3. ICMR constituted an Expert Committee to review the indicators used in the Global Hunger Index (GHI). The Committee concluded that the indicators were inappropriate. The deliberations of the Expert Committee were published in Indian Journal of Medical Research as a White Paper entitled "Global Hunger Index does not measure hunger - An Indian perspective".
4. The White Paper on "Infectious Diseases Beyond COVID-19" highlights the measures needed to tackle other infectious diseases during the current pandemic.
5. ICMR Regional Medical Research Centre North Eastern Region (ICMR-RMRCNE) identified signature mutations in BRCA1/2 genes that are unique to North-Eastern population which can be used for focused site-specific screening for high risk breast cancer patients. Mobile pictorial app for real time surveillance was prepared in collaboration with North Eastern Space Applications Centre (NESAC).
6. The 'Education for Effective Nutrition in Action (ENACT) and Food Systems' modules were developed. Six e-learning modules on "Nutrition and Food Systems" were also developed and six universities were contacted to include these modules in the undergraduate curriculum.

7. A large implementation Research project, India Hypertension Control Initiative (IHCI), was successfully implemented in 104 districts of 21 states; received a United Nations (UN) award and its learnings have been incorporated into National Programme for Prevention and Control of Cancer, Diabetes, Cardiovascular diseases and Stroke (NPCDCS).

8. INSTRuCT, a state-of-the-art stroke clinical trial network (first for any disease in the country) and 4<sup>th</sup> in the world (1<sup>st</sup> in developing countries) was successfully setup in 30 centres. ICMR developed a ICMR Neuro Cognitive Tool box (ICMR-NTB), in five different Indian languages that can be used to assess cognitive impairment due to stroke and other dementias in different populations within India.

9. ICMR Regional Medical Research Centre Port Blair (ICMR-RMRCPB) demonstrated the advantage of novel strategy of supplementing Mass Drug Administration (MDA) with mass distribution of double fortified salt (DEC+iodine). The efforts resulted in elimination of persistent foci of diurnally sub-periodic Wuchereria bancrofti among Nicobarese tribe in the entire group of Nancowry group of islands, a lone focus in India.

10. ICMR-National Institute of Nutrition (ICMR-NIN) developed a functional food formulation for diabetic complications and age-related degenerative conditions. Several underutilized indigenous and traditional crops having high nutritional value have been identified which can increase crops diversity, improve local value chain, and diversify food system. The institute proposed revision to nutrition norms for schedule II of the National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013 for energy and protein. Further, the centre provided norms for protein quality and micronutrients such as calcium, iron, zinc, vitamin A, dietary folate and vitamin B12, for beneficiaries of Poshan 2.0 and PM Poshan Programme.

11. The largest heart failure registry, first of its kind, established a network of 53 centres and registered 10,700 patients.

12. ICMR developed and released 3 volumes of “Contribution of ICMR to world science literature in the area of COVID-19” containing consolidated research articles on COVID-19, published in peer-reviewed journals by ICMR and its institutes.

13. A 2-minute film was developed to showcase the journey of Covaxin development and other achievements of ICMR in tackling COVID-19. The film was showcased in Geneva during ‘Going Viral’ Book launch and Postal stamp Launch. There was release of COVID-19 vaccine (BBV-152) Commemorative postal stamp by Hon’ble Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare on the occasion of anniversary of COVID-19 Vaccination Drive on 16<sup>th</sup> January 2022. ICMR engaged eminent cricketer Shri Harbhajan Singh as brand ambassador for COVID-19 awareness and tackling vaccine hesitancy. ICMR developed a short video message and two short films using famous word ‘Doosra’ to encourage people taking second dose of vaccine.

14. Inauguration of the Made in India ‘Mobile BSL-3 Laboratory’ by Hon’ble Minister of State for Health & Family Welfare was done on 18<sup>th</sup> February, 2022 at Nashik.

15. The i-DRONE study was first of its kind in the South Asian region where drones were used for delivering of COVID-19 vaccines from land to island. In this study, drones delivered 21,000 units of medical supplies including multivitamin tablets, syrups, COVID-19 vaccines and routine vaccines. The first drone sortie from Bishnupur District Hospital to Karang Primary Health Centre was launched by Hon'ble Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare.

16. During this period, 3,690 Adhoc proposals, 3,220 Fellowships, and 1,126 special call proposals were processed. The Clinical Trial Registry of India has registered around 50,000 clinical trials till date. ICMR developed customized dataset items for Ayurveda studies in CTRI portal. The National COVID Registry has registered more than 55,000 cases and provides information to the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoHFW) for development of policies and programmes. A total of 26 Indian patent applications, 01 design application, 05 copyright applications, 10 Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) applications and 06 International patent applications were filed. 05 Indian patent and 03 International patents were granted. A total of 995 publications were done, out of which approximately 40 were published in journals with impact factor more than 20.

Authenticated

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