



**icmr**  
INDIAN COUNCIL OF  
MEDICAL RESEARCH  
Serving the nation since 1911

**प्रोफेसर (डा.) बलराम भार्गव, पदम श्री**

एमडी, डीएम, एफआरसीपी (जी.), एफआरसीपी (ई.), एफएसीसी,  
एफएएचए, एफएएमएस, एफएनएस, एफएएससी, एफ.एन.ए., डी.एस.सी.

**सचिव, भारत सरकार**

स्वास्थ्य अनुसंधान विभाग

स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण मंत्रालय एवं

**महानिदेशक, आई सी एम आर**

**Prof. (Dr.) Balram Bhargava, Padma Shri**

MD, DM, FRCP (Glasg.), FRCP (Edin.),  
FACC, FAHA, FAMS, FNASc, FASc, FNA, DSc

**Secretary to the Government of India**

Department of Health Research

Ministry of Health & Family Welfare &

**Director-General, ICMR**

**भारतीय आयुर्विज्ञान अनुसंधान परिषद**

स्वास्थ्य अनुसंधान विभाग

स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण मंत्रालय

भारत सरकार

वी. रामलिंगस्वामी भवन, अंसारी नगर

नई दिल्ली - 110 029

**Indian Council of Medical Research**

Department of Health Research

Ministry of Health & Family Welfare

Government of India

V. Ramalingaswami Bhawan, Ansari Nagar

New Delhi - 110 029

**D.O. No. ECD/Misc./Covid-19/2020**

Dated, the 6<sup>th</sup> April, 2020

Dear All,

The National Task Force for COVID-19 has constituted the following research groups to identify the research priorities and quickly initiate research studies.

1. Clinical Research Group
2. Research on Diagnostics and bio-markers
3. Epidemiology and surveillance
4. Operations Research
5. Vaccines/Drug Research and Development

The composition of these groups and TORs are enclosed. The Chairs of these groups will convene meetings of the respective groups through video-conference to identify research priorities, develop research protocols and identify partners institutes for initiating studies.

I request you to kindly convey your willingness to be a part of the above-mentioned research groups.

With regards

Yours sincerely,

(Balram Bhargava)

### **TOR for each group**

- Identify research priorities
  - Review evidence
  - Align them in consonance with current level of outbreak and response
- Identify protocol lead and create a protocol development team
  - Develop concept notes
  - Develop complete protocols
- Identify partners for implementation

### **A. Clinical Research Group**

1. Randeep Guleria (Chair)
2. Naveet Wig (AIIMS)
3. RR Gangakhedkar (ICMR)
4. Sanjay Pujari (Instt Inf Dis, Pune)
5. OC Abraham (CMC, Vellore)
6. Rajeev Soman (Hinduja)
7. Atul Patel (Ahmedabad)
8. N. Kumarasamy (YRG)
9. DK Behra (PGIMER)
10. Padma Priyadarshini (NIRT)

**(Immediate Priority from NTF: Establish India COVID-19 Clinical Research Collaborative Network)**

### **TOR for each group**

- Identify research priorities
  - Review evidence
  - Align them in consonance with current level of outbreak and response
- Identify protocol lead and create a protocol development team
  - Develop concept notes
  - Develop complete protocols
- Identify partners for implementation

### **B. Research on Diagnostics and biomarkers**

1. DA Gadkari (Chair)
2. Jagdeesh Deshpande (ICMR)
3. Lalit Dhar (AIIMS)
4. Priya Abraham (NIV)
5. Pragya Yadav (NIV)
6. Madhuri Thakar (NARI)
7. Amita Jain (KGMU)
8. Nivedita Gupta (ICMR)
9. Sandhya Kabra (NCDC)
10. Director, ICGEB
11. Naveen Khanna

**(Immediate priority from NTF: Periodically advise about testing strategy)**

### **TOR for each group**

- Identify research priorities
  - Review evidence
  - Align them in consonance with current level of outbreak and response
- Identify protocol lead and create a protocol development team
  - Develop concept notes
  - Develop complete protocols
- Identify partners for implementation

### **C. Epidemiology and Surveillance**

1. DCS Reddy (Chair)
2. JP Muliyl (CMC)
3. Swaroop Sarkar (ICMR)
4. Sujeet Singh (NCDC)
5. Shashi Kant (AIIMS)
6. RM Pandey (AIIMS)
7. Sanjay Zodpey (PHFI)
8. Naman Shah (JSS)
9. Giridhara Babu (PHFI)
10. Kiran Rade (WHO India)
11. Manoj Murhekar (ICMR)
12. Tarun Bhatnagar (ICMR)

**(Priority from NTF: Basis for lockdown/partial lockdown)**

### **TOR for each group**

- Identify research priorities
  - Review evidence
  - Align them in consonance with current level of outbreak and response
- Identify protocol lead and create a protocol development team
  - Develop concept notes
  - Develop complete protocols
- Identify partners for implementation

### **D. Operations Research**

1. NK Arora (INCLIN)
2. Sanjay Chauhan (NIRRH)
3. Kiran Rade (WHO India)
4. Sandip Mandal (ICMR)
5. Rajan Khobragade (Govt of Kerala)
6. Sanket Kulkarni (IDSP)
7. Subhash Salunke (PHFI)
8. Arvind Pandey (ICMR)
9. Rakhal Gaitonde (SCTIMST)
10. Shankar Prinja (PGIMER)
11. Ravi Varma (ICWA)
12. Beena Thomas (NIRT)
13. Shalini Bharat (TISS)
14. JP Narayan (WHO)

### **TOR for each group**

- Identify research priorities
  - Review evidence
  - Align them in consonance with current level of outbreak and response
- Identify protocol lead and create a protocol development team
  - Develop concept notes
  - Develop complete protocols
- Identify partners for implementation

### **E. Vaccine/Drugs Research & Development**

1. Gagandeep Kang (Chair)
2. Suman Kanungo (NICED)
3. Bikash Medhi (PGIMER)
4. S S Das (NICED)
5. Debashish Mitra MCCA
6. Sarah Cherian (NIV)
7. Director (IICT)
8. Sanjay Mehendale (Hinduja)
9. Niraj Agrawal (ICMR)