



Press Release
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ICMR organizes webinar on “Gandhi’s Perspective in Relevance to Health Crisis”

An e-photo book and a compendium of ICMR initiatives related to Gandhi & Health was also released during the webinar to commemorate the second year of Gandhi’s 150th birth anniversary celebrations

New Delhi: On Gandhi Jayanti, Indian Council of Medical Research [ICMR] organised a webinar on “Gandhi’s Perspective in Relevance to Health Crisis”. An e-photo album with Gandhi’s quotes and a compendium of initiatives undertaken by ICMR in collaboration with National Gandhi Museum during the two-year-long 150th birth anniversary celebration of Mahatma Gandhi were also released during the webinar.

At the webinar, **Padma Shri Dr. Abhay Bang**, Director, Society for Education, Action and Research in Community Health (SEARCH), delivered a talk on “*What would Gandhi do faced with today’s crisis?*” Dr. Bang highlighted the Mahatma’s life teachings and emphasized Gandhian values of freedom from fear, caring for the sick, “*Swa-dharma*” and “*Aarogya Swaraj*” for dealing with today’s crisis. **Sh. A. Annamalai**, Director, National Gandhi Museum, congratulated ICMR for its “Gandhi & Health@150” initiative over the past two years to promote Gandhian philosophy of health. He also expressed his gratitude to the ICMR team for working tirelessly to deal with the pandemic.

Speaking on the occasion, **Prof. (Dr.) Balram Bhargava**, Secretary, DHR & DG, ICMR said, “Mahatma Gandhi has spent his life promoting the message of preventive health to the masses. In today’s unprecedented time, there is no better person who could lead us out of this. Taking cue from his messages, we should follow the preventive measures like physical distancing (*do gaz ki doori*), use of masks at public places and offices, maintaining hand hygiene, following coughing and sneezing etiquettes, that are the most effective ways to keep this dreadful virus at bay. Following them conscientiously will be a prominent way to foster ease of living in COVID times. In the meantime, ICMR is on its toes to find out pharmacological solutions and developing a vaccine to fight against this virus.” He also highlighted the relevance of Gandhian value of “Less is more” & “Health is wealth” especially in the times of crisis. He opined that Mahatma was very much aware &



concerned about individual health & poured his thoughts in the book “Key to Health”.

Last year, ICMR released a collector’s edition of the Indian Journal of Medical Research (IJMR) in two languages (Hindi & English). A two-day symposium was also organised to bring together the Gandhian scholars as well as public health professionals for cross-pollination of ideas and inspiration towards innovative applications of Gandhian philosophy in the area of health. ICMR also took Gandhi’s teachings on health to schools through its innovative Mission SHAKTTI (School-based Health Awareness, Knowledge, Test & Training Initiative) programme.

About ICMR

The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), New Delhi, the apex body in India for the formulation, coordination and promotion of biomedical research, is one of the oldest medical research bodies in the world. The ICMR has always attempted to address itself to the growing demands of scientific advances in biomedical research on the one hand, and to the need of finding practical solutions to the health problems of the country, on the other. The ICMR has come a long way from the days when it was known as the IRFA, but the Council is conscious of the fact that it still has miles to go in pursuit of scientific achievements as well as health targets. The Council's research priorities coincide with the National health priorities such as control and management of communicable diseases, fertility control, maternal and child health, control of nutritional disorders, developing alternative strategies for health care delivery, containment within safety limits of environmental and occupational health problems; research on major non-communicable diseases like cancer, cardiovascular diseases, blindness, diabetes and other metabolic and haematological disorders; mental health research and drug research (including traditional remedies). All these efforts are undertaken with a view to reduce the total burden of disease and to promote health and well-being of the population. For more information, please visit <https://www.icmr.gov.in/>

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