



## AN OVERVIEW

The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) promotes biomedical research in the country through intramural and extramural research. During the year under report, the Council's continued research and development on critical areas of research such as management of communicable diseases, fertility control, maternal and child health, nutritional deficiencies and disorders, solving environmental and occupational health problems, research on non-communicable diseases such as cancer, cardiovascular diseases, diabetes, haematological disorders, mental health, geriatric problems and research on traditional medicine. Some of the important activities and achievement of the Council during the year are given below.

The Honorable Union Minister of Health, Dr Anbumani Ramadoss, inaugurated the new building of the National Institute of Epidemiology at Chennai and dedicated the ICMR School of Public Health to the nation on 30 October, 2006.

During the year, the Department of Science and Technology and ICMR jointly established a National Centre for Preclinical Reproductive and Genetic Toxicology at the Council's National Institute for Research in Reproductive Health (NIRRH), Mumbai.

The NIRRH, Mumbai in collaboration with Municipal Corporation of Mumbai started Adolescent Friendly Centres, named JAGRUTI, for providing specialized reproductive and sexual health services to adolescent boys and girls.

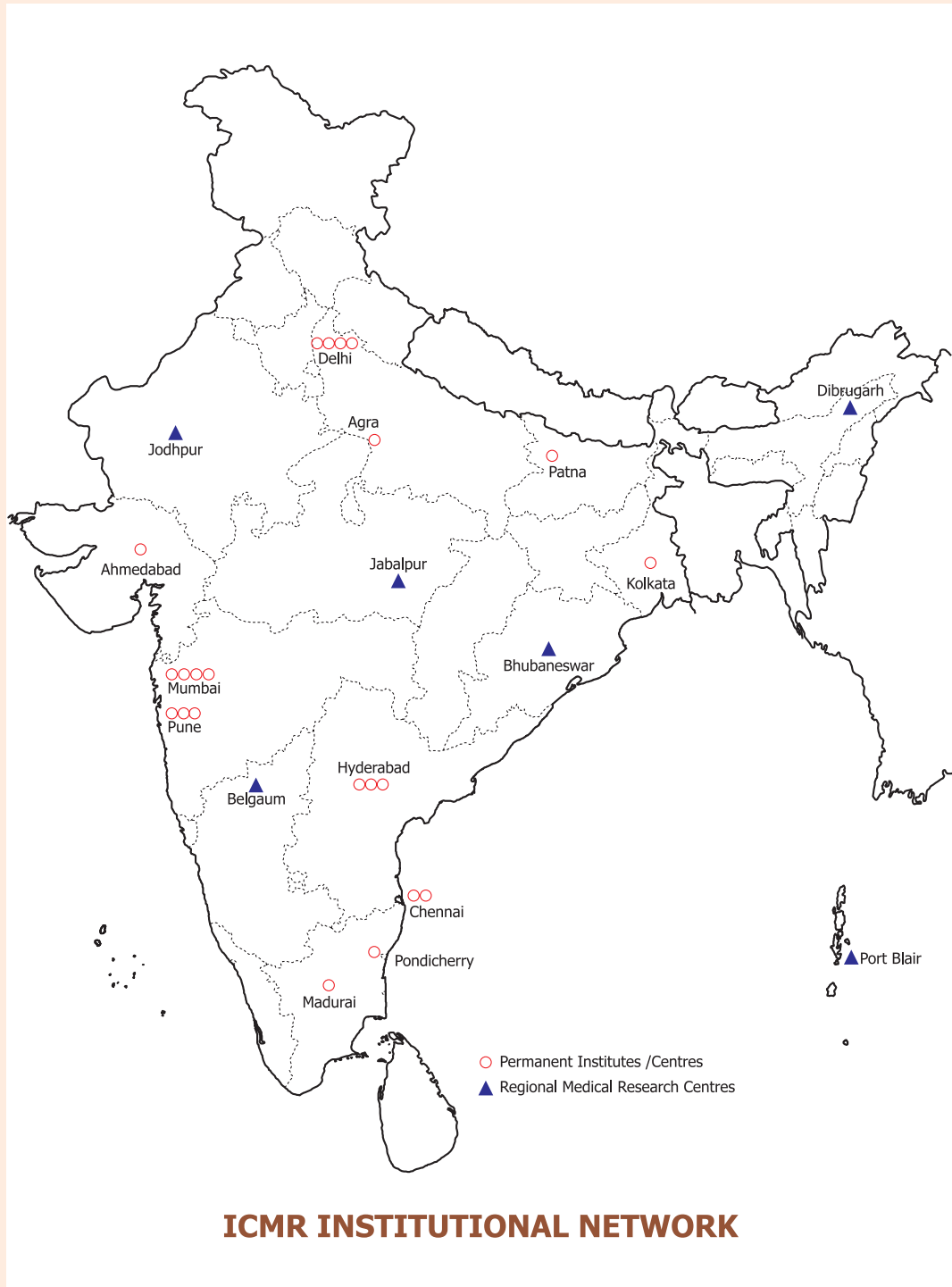
The Tuberculosis Research Centre, Chennai, has demonstrated decline in the annual risk of tuberculosis infection after DOTS implementation based on repeated community surveys. Molecular epidemiological studies of *M.tuberculosis* isolates from model DOTS project area revealed that 85% of the isolates belong to ancestral lineage (East African / Indian Oceanic Group).

The Rajendra Memorial Research Institute of Medical Sciences, Patna has been identified as a Centre of Excellence for various clinical trials in the field of leishmaniasis. Phase II clinical trials with oral miltefosine drug for treatment of visceral leishmaniasis and clinical trial with another oral drug sitamaquine were successfully completed during the year.

During the year the Council investigated outbreaks of Japanese encephalitis in Assam, Andhra Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh. Chikungunya fever outbreaks reported from various parts of India viz. Chennai, Chittoor, Dindigal, Cherthala, Lakshdweep, Puducherry and Andaman and Nicobar Islands were investigated through entomological surveys and molecular biological studies.

The Council's Enterovirus Research Centre at Mumbai developed a new algorithm for reducing the time of poliovirus isolation, typing and differentiation from 20-28 days to 14 days. The new method will become the standard procedure for poliovirus isolation in the WHO network countries.

The Council conducted a phase I trial of adeno-associated virus based human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) vaccine. Another phase I trial of modified vaccinia Ankara





**Hon'ble Minister of Health and Family Welfare, Dr Anbumani Ramadoss inaugurating the Schools of Public Health at NIE, Chennai**

based vaccine for HIV has been completed. The Council's National AIDS Research Institute (NARI), Pune has been involved in national HIV sentinel sero-surveillance activity.

The Clinical Trial Registry India (CTRI) was established at the National Institute of Medical Statistics, New Delhi. This Web based ([www.ctri.in](http://www.ctri.in)) public record system will help in the prospective registration of all clinical trials. The registration is voluntary and free and

the CTRI is searchable primary register to be linked to WHO's ICTRP. It has three levels of access - user, administrator and public and is scalable to cover more countries in future.

National Guidelines have been developed for management of reproductive tract infections (RTIs) including sexually transmitted infections (STIs). The Ethical Guidelines for Biomedical Research on Human subjects was revised during 2006.

The impact factor of Indian Journal of Medical Research increased to 1.224 in 2006, the highest ever for an Indian scientific journal.

A total of 521 research papers were published in various biomedical journals by ICMR scientists during 2006. A total of 913 research projects and 477 research fellowships were funded by the Council during the year 2006-07. A total of 13 patents were filed (9 in India and 4 abroad) during the year under review.

During the year new Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) were signed between ICMR and University of Minnesota (USA) and the ICMR-INCLIN. A total of 14 exchange visits of scientists to and from India were arranged under the international collaborative programmes of the Council.



**Hon'ble Minister of Health and Family Welfare, Dr Anbumani Ramadoss with ICMR Awardees**