

## Five-fold funding boost for ICMR in 12th Plan

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More than â,110,000 crore are earmarked for the department of health research (DHR) and Indian council for medical research (ICMR) in the 12<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan, which is almost five times more than the funds received in the 11<sup>th</sup> Plan. This was revealed by the union health minister, Mr Ghulam Nabi Azad recently at the inauguration of Asia's first biosafety level-IV laboratory at Pune.

According to Mr Azad, "It is a matter of satisfaction that "Health" has been given a central position in the 12<sup>th</sup> Plan and the outlay for health, including health research, has gone up substantially."

The major schemes to be rolled out in the area of health research during the 12<sup>th</sup> Plan period:

- â– Establishment of multidisciplinary research units in 150 government medical colleges
- â– Setting up of 50 rural health research units at block level
- â– Establishment of a network of 250 laboratories at regional, state and district level for managing epidemics
- â– Grant-in-aid to researchers on projects involving development of affordable technologies, reagents and methods for public use
- â– Strengthen the existing ICMR institutes and set-up new centres in deficit areas
- â– Suggest and regularly update standard treatment guidelines
- â– Bench mark and cccredit health research institutions
- â– Support human esource development for producing qualified researchers