

Health Minister unveils special issue of 'Indian Journal of Medical Research'

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Announces the commencement of the constitution of a high-level steering committee for Eco Health Initiatives in India

Dr Harsh Vardhan, Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare chaired ICMR's International Symposium titled 'One Health in India: Research informing biosafety, preparedness and response' through video conference on 12 April.

He launched a special issue of ICMR's Indian Journal of Medical Research which discusses the One Health approach, corroborating multisectoral research informing regarding biosafety, preparedness and response and has original articles, viewpoints, perspectives and reviews from the eminent experts in the field.

The commencement of the constitution of a high-level steering committee for Eco Health Initiatives in India was also announced. This committee will have its secretariat hosted at the ICMR, and will also be supported by the upcoming National Institute of One Health which is planned to be set-up in Nagpur.

The Union Health Minister said, "The whole world is grappling with the devastating effects of COVID-19. It is the need of the hour to brainstorm and find out ways for future emergency preparedness against emerging and re-emerging infections. With increased interaction between humans and animals – domestic and wild, and influenced by climate change, human health can no longer be seen in isolation. Our present COVID19 pandemic is more than a reminder of this fact."

He expressed hope that the steps envisaged would help avert the next pandemic.