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CSIR and ICMR hold meeting to chart joint health research roadmap

25 November 2025 | News

Highlighting the need to continue and expand wastewater surveillance for multiple pathogens



The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) convened a high-level Brainstorming Meeting at the CSIR Science Centre, New Delhi, to strengthen ongoing collaborations and outline a forward-looking, integrated roadmap for joint health research.

The meeting was co-chaired by Dr N. Kalaiselvi, Director General, CSIR and Secretary, DSIR, and Dr Rajiv Bahl, Director General, ICMR and Secretary, Department of Health Research. Directors of several CSIR and ICMR laboratories, along with senior officials from both organisations, participated in the discussions.

During the deliberations, the two organisations reviewed the progress of major ongoing collaborative initiatives, including CSIR molecules moving into clinical trials, the status of ICMR-supported Centres of Advanced Research in CSIR laboratories, and the implementation of big-ticket projects.

The need to continue and expand wastewater surveillance for multiple pathogens across cities, hospitals, and communities was highlighted, with a consensus to strengthen joint efforts through the One Health Mission.

Both sides also discussed the respective roles and responsibilities of CSIR and ICMR in the development of novel molecules and drugs, including systematic clinical trials and the use of ICMR's large-animal toxicity testing facilities.

The AcSIR–ICMR Ph.D. programme was reviewed, with an emphasis on expanding opportunities for young researchers, including the integration of ICMR fellowships alongside CSIR fellowships.

The meeting concluded with a shared commitment to intensify collaboration, streamline joint project development, and expand engagement across emerging domains such as biomedical science, diagnostics, digital health, and environmental health surveillance.