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ICMR to focus on raising health research output

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Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) plans to raise the national health research output by 30 percent and to launch at least 10 globally validated Indian traditional medicines by 2030.

The ICMR Strategic Plan-2017-24 is based on five major pillars of capacity building, data management, leveraging traditional medicine, evidence to policy and strengthening program implementation through research.

ICMR aims to adopt a three-pronged approach of customised courses for undertaking advanced high end and basic start-up health research; strengthening the available infrastructure in elite research institutions, medical colleges, research institutions; and establishment of centres of excellence and regional mentorship hubs.

ICMR also plans to acquire an independent university or equivalent status to strongly position itself as a teaching agency and provide an opportunity to students to obtain a postgraduate or doctoral degree under the ICMR brand.

The apex body that oversees biomedical research in the country plans to produce 100 PhDs per year, in addition to training 5,000 health personnel annually through ICMR regional hubs by 2030. ICMR will also aim to produce at least 300-500 A-star scientists in the area of health research.