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**12 November 2018****Daily News Pedia****National body set up to study rare form of diabetes**

As part of the World Diabetes Day 2018, the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has nominated the Madras Diabetes Research Foundation (MDRF) and Dr. Mohan's Diabetes Specialties Centre as the 'National Coordinating Centre for the 'National Monogenic Diabetes Study Group of India'.

Under this initiative, MDRF would provide guidelines to the collaborators for identifying monogenic diabetes and sending their details. Several top institutions, diabetologists and endocrinologists, including many prestigious medical colleges all over India, have consented to be members of this study group.

Certain parameters will be identified for children below six months of age and those diagnosed as Type 1 diabetes but have atypical features such as milder forms of diabetes, and strong family history of diabetes going through several generations.

ICMR already has a young diabetic's registry and National Monogenic Diabetes Study Group has been formed as its off-shoot, with MDRF as the nodal centre.

Source: The Hindu.

**Monogenic diabetes:**

Monogenic diabetes is a group of disorders where *mutation of a single gene* causes diabetes.

Its three commonest forms being – Maturity Onset Diabetes of the Young (MODY), Neonatal Diabetes Mellitus (NDM) and Congenital Hypoglycemia. MODY comprises at least 14 subtypes, of which MODY 1 and MODY 3 are the commonest forms. The patients with MODY can stop insulin injections and be switched over to inexpensive sulphonylurea tablets. Neonatal Diabetes Mellitus (NDM) which is defined as onset of diabetes below 6 months of age. They can also be switched over to oral sulphonylurea treatment.

Children with Congenital Hypoglycemia (CH) have the opposite condition of neonatal diabetes.

From the time of birth, these babies have severe low sugar reactions. Many of them can be treated with a medicine called as 'Diaz oxide', while some have to undergo a partial removal of the pancreas (Pancreatectomy).

The two most common forms of diabetes are type 2 diabetes and type 1 diabetes. Polygenic diabetes is a group of disorders where mutations of a multiple genes cause diabetes.

Source: The Hindu.

## ***ISRO invites foreign ‘riders’ to Venus***

The Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) has taken its first step towards its mid-2023-planned mission to Venus by issuing an announcement of opportunity (AO) to the international space community to propose their scientific payloads to be carried on the mission.

This AO for space-based experiments to study Venus is open to international scientists from various space agencies, research laboratories, academic institutions and universities. This AO has a specific objective to identify important science experiments that complements overall science from the suite of pre-selected proposals from India on ISRO's Venus mission.

The payload capacity of the proposed satellite to be launched by ISRO is likely to be about 100 kg with 500W of power. It plans to study the planet from an elliptical orbit that is closest to Venus at 500 km and 60,000 km at the farthest end which is likely to be reduced gradually, over several months to a lessen the satellite's farthest point from Venus while in an elliptical orbit, depending on the final spacecraft configuration.

Proposers are expected to be currently involved in planetary exploration studies, the development of science instruments for space, and willing to develop space-worthy experiments, besides having access to associated facilities for test and instrument calibration.

Source: The Hindu.

## ***Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)***

IPBES is an independent intergovernmental body, established by member States in 2012

It provides policymakers with objective scientific assessments about the state of knowledge regarding the planet's biodiversity, ecosystems and the benefits they provide to people, as well as the tools and methods to protect and sustainably use these vital natural assets. IPBES does for biodiversity what the IPCC does for climate change

IPBES currently has 128 member States. A large number of NGOs, organizations, conventions and civil society groupings also participate in the formal IPBES process as observers

The work of IPBES can be broadly grouped into four complementary areas:

- **Assessments:** On specific themes (e.g. "Pollinators, Pollination and Food Production"); methodological issues (e.g. "Scenarios and Modeling"); and at both the regional and global levels (e.g. "Global Assessment of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services")
- **Policy Support:** Identifying policy-relevant tools and methodologies, facilitating their use, and catalyzing their further development
- **Building Capacity & Knowledge:** Identifying and meeting the priority capacity, knowledge and data needs of our member States, experts and stakeholders
- **Communications & Outreach:** Ensuring the widest reach and impact

*The second edition of International Symposium to Promote Innovation & Research in Energy Efficiency (INSPIRE) is being organized by Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL) and World Bank.*

Source: The Hindu.

## **INSPIRE 2018**

INSPIRE 2018 has been organized in collaboration with the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE), The Energy & Resources Institute (TERI), ADB, UNEP, and the Administrative Staff College of India (ASCI).

The three-day symposium will focus on enhancing grid management, e-Mobility, financial instruments and technologies for energy efficiency in India. The event is bringing together policy-makers, innovators and various stakeholders to deliberate on key energy policies, market transformation strategies, and sustainable business models. This will help leverage the full potential of energy efficiency and bring its multiple co-benefits to the fore.

*Innovate To Inspire Challenge:* The #InnovateToINSPIRE challenge was organized by EESL and World Resources Institute (WRI).

The challenge invited participants to submit sustainable and scalable solutions to seven specific challenges spanning grid management, e-Mobility, energy efficient technologies and financial instruments. The winning entries received an award of Rs. 5 lakhs each along with mentoring and guidance from EESL to help them bring their solutions to market.

Source: The Hindu.

## **Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL)**

EESL under the administration of Ministry of Power is working towards mainstreaming energy efficiency and is implementing the world's largest energy efficiency portfolio in the country.

EESL aims to create market access for efficient and future-ready transformative solutions that create a win-win situation for every stakeholder. EESL has pioneered innovative business approaches to successfully roll-out large-scale programs that allow for incentive alignment across the value chain and rapidly drive transformative impact.

EESL aims to leverage this implementation experience and explore new overseas market opportunities for diversification of its portfolio. As on date, EESL has begun its operations in UK, South Asia and South-East Asia.

Source: The Hindu.

## **SIMBEX 2018**



The 25th edition of the India-Singapore bilateral naval exercise, SIMBEX, has begun at the tri-services command in Port Blair. Started as basic Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) exercises in 1994, today these exercises have graduated to complex maritime combat drills, including missile and torpedo firings, and shore-based intensive professional exchanges.

Seven ships from the Indian Navy and five ships from the Singapore Navy along with an Archer class submarine and a Deep Submergence Rescue Vehicle will take part in the exercise.

The number of missiles and torpedo firings being undertaken are in fact unprecedented and perhaps the largest the Indian Navy has undertaken with any foreign Navy till date.

Source: The Hindu.

## Editorial

### To Read

#### **Demonetisation, a cautionary tale**

The heavily flawed policy decision continues to adversely affect us.

It is remarkable how Prime Minister Narendra Modi doesn't talk about demonetisation anymore. For a leader who is not shy about promoting even the most modest of his achievements, it speaks volumes about the degree to which demonetisation failed. Especially on the second anniversary of what his supporters once called a game-changing policy initiative. For a man who asked the nation to "hang him" if demonetisation did not succeed in 50 days, such silence even after 730 days speaks volumes to the nation.

We now know that PM Modi failed on every single yardstick that he and his team set. Black money has not been eradicated. With 99.9 per cent of all cash coming back into the banking system, Modi's promise to the nation (and before the Supreme Court) that over Rs 3 lakh crore would be recovered by the government has proved to be false.

On curbing terrorism, we are witnessing a period of unprecedented unrest both in areas affected by Naxal violence (with 114 officials martyred) and at our borders (with 127 security officials being martyred and 99 civilians having lost their lives) in the days after demonetisation. On eliminating fake notes, it turns out that the problem was greatly exaggerated. The fake currency found is a mere 0.0034 per cent of all the notes in circulation. In sum, we spent over Rs 30,000 crore of tax payer money to recover a little over Rs 7,000 crore. There is no democracy in the world that would tolerate such a monumental failure, born out of arrogance and recklessness.

We are still assessing the damage caused to the economy. The Centre for Monitoring of Indian Economy recently published its survey, which presented three grim findings: One, "at least" 3.5 million jobs were lost. Two, the labour force itself shrank by 15 million. Three, women, an already vulnerable part of the workforce, were worse hit than men.

The government's silence is punctuated only by the sound of the finance minister's Diwali blog, which desperately seeks to reset a narrative that has gone out of their control. [Arun Jaitley](#) now says the objective was formalisation or reducing the dependency of citizens on cash. Unfortunately for Jaitley, this claim has been proven incorrect by the RBI in its annual report, published in August (where much of the data mentioned in the first paragraph also comes from). The report states that "India's currency to GDP ratio moved up to 10.9 per cent in 2017-18, returning to being amongst the highest levels of currency usage in peer emerging market economies (EMEs) and advanced economies (AEs) as well. In consonance, the use of digital payments, which had surged to a peak in December 2016 in the aftermath of demonetisation, fell back to the elevated post-demonetisation trend before rising in recent months."

The individuals, who lost their lives in the aftermath of Modi's grand announcement and due to lack of institutional preparedness, are not even acknowledged by the man who promised "sabka saath, sabka vikas".

However, in addition to the above, there are other, more sinister inferences, that have emerged in the two years since its passage.

First, it was, as Rahul Gandhi aptly put it, a "fair-and-lovely" scheme, to whitewash the unaccounted wealth held by key cronies in politics and industry. We are yet to find the example of a single wealthy industrialist who was prosecuted or even inconvenienced as a result of this

exercise. In fact, high net worth defaulters have never had it this good. The count of those leaving India with taxpayer money increases every day and the government does nothing. Second, prima facie, it appears that the government used its insider knowledge to benefit the ruling party. A cooperative bank in Ahmedabad, which enjoys the distinction of having Amit Shah as a director (and former chairman), ended up being the only district bank to have received the largest majority of old currency notes in the entire country. This is too remarkable a coincidence to be ignored. Multiple other instances of suspicious transactions implying collusion between the government and participants having ties with the ruling party are in the public domain, but none of them have been investigated.

The cascading impact of this policy decision continues to adversely affect all of us. To shore up its losses caused by demonetisation and other acts of economic mismanagement, the government has chosen to plunder the RBI's reserves of over Rs 3.6 lakh crore, a step never before taken by any government in the past except once, at a time of war. Demonetisation is now taught as a cautionary tale by academics across the world. It seems that Modi is likely to meet with the same fate.

**Mains Question**

**Q: Zika virus infections in India; how serious the problem is?**