



Department of Biotechnology
Ministry of Science & Technology
Govt. of India

Press Release

Launch of UMMID - UNIQUE METHODS OF MANAGEMENT AND TREATMENT OF INHERITED DISORDERS Initiative and Inauguration of NIDAN - NATIONAL INHERITED DISEASES ADMINISTRATION Kendra Network supported by Department of Biotechnology, GoI

23rd September 2019

Dr. Harsh Vardhan, Hon'ble Union Minister for Science & Technology, Earth Sciences and Health & Family Welfare launched UMMID (Unique Methods of Management and treatment of Inherited Disorders) Initiative and inaugurated NIDAN (National Inherited Diseases Administration) Kendras supported by Department of Biotechnology, GoI.

Congenital and hereditary genetic diseases are becoming a significant health burden in India, and hence there is a need for adequate and effective genetic testing and counselling services. In India's urban areas, congenital malformations and genetic disorders are the third most common cause of mortality in newborns. With a very large population and high birth rate, and consanguineous marriage favored in many communities, prevalence of genetic disorders is high in India. Considering these facts, the Department of Biotechnology (DBT), GoI has started UMMID Initiative. The whole initiative is designed on the concept of 'Prevention is better than Cure'.

The aim is (i) to establish NIDAN Kendras to provide counselling, prenatal testing and diagnosis, management, and multidisciplinary care in Government Hospitals wherein the influx of patients is more, (ii) to produce skilled clinicians in Human Genetics, and (iii) to undertake screening of pregnant women and new born babies for inherited genetic diseases in hospitals at aspirational districts

As a part of this initiative, in the first phase, five NIDAN Kendras have been established to provide comprehensive clinical care at NRS Medical College-Kolkata, AIIMS- Jodhpur, Army Hospital Research & Referrals- Delhi, Lady Harding's Medical College- New Delhi and NIMS- Hyderabad. Training Centres at Madras Medical Mission- Chennai, SGPGIMS- Lucknow, CDFD – Hyderabad, AIIMS- New Delhi, MAMC- New Delhi, NIIH- Mumbai and CMC Vellore have been supported to provide training in Biochemical Genetics, Cytogenetics, Molecular Genetics, and Clinical Genetics to the clinicians from government hospitals. Screening of 10,000 pregnant women and 5000 new born babies per year for inherited genetic diseases will be taken up at seven aspirational districts viz Mewat, Yadgir, Haridwar, Washim, Ranchi, Shrawasti and Nandurbar.

The department is planning to expand the program and establish more Nidan Kendras in other parts of the country, train more clinicians in clinical genetics and cover more aspirational districts for screening of pregnant women and new born babies for inherited genetic diseases to provide comprehensive clinical care, in the next phase under this UMMID initiative.

The Government of India has launched the National Health Policy, 2017 aiming to shift focus from "sick-care" to "wellness". UMMID initiative will play a great role in achieving wellness by promoting prevention of genetic diseases. Since the program is being implemented at government hospitals, common people who may not afford expensive care for genetic disorders will get benefited.