

डॉ. पेम्मासानी चंद्र शेखर  
Dr. Pemmasani Chandra Sekhar



राज्य मंत्री  
संचार एवं ग्रामीण विकास मंत्रालय  
भारत सरकार  
Minister of State for Communications  
and Rural Development  
Government of India

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Respected Shri. Jagath Prakash Nadde ji,

I hope this letter finds you in good health and high spirits. I am writing to bring to your attention an innovative and highly promising initiative undertaken by the Indian Council of Medical Research's Vector Control Research Centre (ICMR-VCRC), Puducherry, to address the pressing issue of vector-borne diseases in our country.

India continues to face a significant public health challenge from diseases like dengue and chikungunya. Official data for year 2023 reported over **289,529 dengue cases**, leading to **485 deaths**. This escalating burden highlights the urgent need for transformative strategies to combat these diseases effectively and sustainably.

ICMR-VCRC's cutting-edge research on Wolbachia-infected *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes offers a possibility of unique and eco-friendly solution. Laboratory studies conducted by the centre have demonstrated a substantial reduction in the ability of dengue and chikungunya viruses to replicate within Wolbachia-infected mosquitoes.

Globally, the Wolbachia method has shown remarkable success. For example, the Yogyakarta trial in Indonesia reported a **77% reduction in dengue cases** in treated areas, while Townsville in Australia virtually eliminated local dengue transmission. These results demonstrate the potential of this technology to transform vector control programs worldwide, including in India.

Given the significant progress made by ICMR-VCRC, it is imperative that we now take proactive steps to operationalize this project, ensuring its integration into our national vector control strategies. Leveraging this initiative aligns with our goals to

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enhance public health outcomes and reduce the economic burden of vector-borne diseases.

Your leadership in prioritizing innovative approaches has always been exemplary. I am confident that this initiative, under your guidance, will gain the momentum and needs to contribute meaningfully to India's fight against dengue and chikungunya.

Yours sincerely,



(Dr. Pemmasani Chandra Sekhar)

**Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda,**  
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