



सत्यमेव जयते

**प्रोफेसर (डा.) बलराम भार्गव**, पदम श्री

एमडी, डीएम, एफआरसीपी (जी.), एफआरसीपी (ई.), एफएसीसी,  
एफएएचए, एफएएमएस, एफएनएस, एफएएससी, एफ.एन.ए., डी.एस.सी.

**सचिव, भारत सरकार**

स्वास्थ्य अनुसंधान विभाग

स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण मंत्रालय एवं

महानिदेशक, आई सी एम आर

**Prof. (Dr.) Balram Bhargava**, Padma Shri

MD, DM, FRCP (Glasg.), FRCP (Edin.),  
FACC, FAHA, FAMS, FNASc, FASc, FNA, DSc

**Secretary to the Government of India**

Department of Health Research

Ministry of Health & Family Welfare &

**Director-General, ICMR**



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### TO WHOMSOEVER IT MAY CONCERN

**Citation (summary) on the outstanding research work on which award is claimed in about 250 words signed by the nominator**

Dr. Manoj Murhekar has led a number of seroepidemiological studies to generate reliable estimate of disease burden in India and support policy decisions. He was the lead investigator for the four nationwide SARS-CoV-2 serosurveys conducted by ICMR at different time points in the pandemic. The findings of these serosurveys provided insights about the extent of spread of infection, and future trajectory of COVID-19 in India.

Another seroepidemiological study conducted in 60 districts among individuals aged 5-45 years, provided data about endemicity of dengue virus infection in India. This data was required for policy decision for introduction of a dengue vaccine. Analysis of the residual samples provided age-specific prevalence of Chikungunya, hepatitis-B, secondary dengue infection and immunity against diphtheria.

As the PI of the MoHFW funded project on surveillance for Congenital Rubella Syndrome (CRS), Dr. Murhekar constructed catalytical models using the age-specific rubella seroprevalence among pregnant women to estimate incidence and burden of CRS in India. These estimates would be useful to monitor the progress towards rubella elimination in India. Another seroepidemiological study conducted among close contacts of Nipah cases during the 2018 outbreak in Kozhikode, Kerala indicated very low frequency of subclinical infections.

He also led a number of epidemiological studies to understand the epidemiology of scrub typhus in Gorakhpur, which was found to be the major etiology of seasonal outbreaks of acute encephalitis syndrome in the region. The data generated through these studies were the basis of developing guidelines of control/prevention of AES outbreaks in eastern Uttar Pradesh.

*Balram Bhargava*

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