भौतिक अनुसंधान प्रयोगशाला, अहमदाबाद

Physical Research Laboratory, Ahmedabad

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48_PRL Ka Amrut Vyakhyaan

Wednesday, 29 June 2022

@ 04:00 PM (IST)

"COVID 19 in India - Opportunities & Challenges"

Dr. Raman R. Gangakhedkar

Dr. C. G. Pandit National Chair,
Indian Council of Medical Research

https://youtu.be/rTVoZkOyhrw

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Title: "COVID 19 in India - Opportunities & Challenges"

Speaker: Dr. Raman R. Gangakhedkar

Dr. C. G. Pandit National Chair, Indian Council of Medical Research

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Abstract

This talk will discuss how the Government has handled the Covid 19 pandemic in India since its inception. How lockdown helped us to prepare better to mitigate the health outcomes. The talk will also deliberate on the future course of the pandemic, vaccination, and key challenges that continue to exist.

The Speaker

Dr. Raman R. Gangakhedkar is a Former Head of the Division of Epidemiology & Communicable Diseases (ECD), Indian Council of Medical Research, New Delhi; and Director in Charge, National AIDS Research Institute, Pune. As Head of ECD, managed research & contributed to public health response in recent outbreaks of Nipah, Zika, and COVID 19. He is a member of the National Taskforce on COVID 19. And also a member of the Clinical Research Group and Epidemiology & Operational Research Group on COVID 19. He is a member of the WHO's Scientific Advisory Group for the Origins of Novel Pathogens (SAGO). He is a member of India- Lancet Commission on COVID 19. He is a member of the Scientific Advisory Board of ICMR. He is a member of the Governing Body of the Institute of Medical Sciences, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi, and the National Institute of Tuberculosis & Respiratory Diseases, New Delhi. He is a member, Empowered Committee Central Institute Body of the new AIIMS constituted by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India; Scheme Review Committee of NCDC; and VRDLs under the Department of Health Research. He is a member of the High-level Inter-ministerial Steering Committee for Eco-Health Initiatives in India, constituted by MoHFW. He is a member of the Steering Group – HIV Resistance Network (HIVResNet) constituted by WHO, Geneva. He is a Chairman of the Technical Resource Group (TRG) on Public-Private Partnership; and the Expert Group on Early Infant Diagnosis guidelines constituted by the National AIDS Control Organisation. He is a member of TRGs on Antiretroviral therapy, Pediatric Antiretroviral therapy, Lab services, and Surveillance and Epidemiology constituted by the National AIDS Control Organisation. He is a member of the expert group on the National Operations Research Committee; and Expert Committee on TB vaccines & Diagnostics under the National TB Elimination Program. He is a member of the Technical Resource Group on Surveillance of Viral Hepatitis, constituted by the National Center for Disease Control. He is an Expert to the Standing National Committee on the Essential List of Medicines. He has been a member of Empowered Group 2 on COVID 19. He is a member of the Research Advisory Board of the Asian Institute of Gastroenterology, Hyderabad; The Leprosy Mission Trust India, New Delhi; and the Research & Recognition Committee, Faculty of Health Sciences, Symbiosis International (Deemed University), Pune.

He has been working in the field of HIV disease for over three decades. He is an expert in HIV medicine & associated infectious diseases, epidemiology, and public health. He has been one of the key players in advocacy since 1989 and has been involved in policy-making at the National level on antiretroviral therapy, management of opportunistic infections, prevention of mother-to-child transmission, and STI management, in addition to other key population-specific policies. He is a popular & astute HIV medicine physician. He has been a member of many prestigious international committees on different facets of HIV disease, including those constituted by ACTG (NIH, USA), WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA, and UNAIDS. His efforts to empower the socially challenged populations and enhancing their treatment literacy are widely appreciated. Has published over 220 papers in various International & National Journals.

Dr. Gangakhedkar is a recipient of the Padma Shri (2020). He was awarded 'Doctor of Medical Science' (D. Med. Sc) Honors Causa by the Datta Meghe Institute of Medical Sciences (Deemed to be University) in 2021. He is a recipient of many awards, and some of them are Late Dr. Shankarrao Chavan Jeevan Gaurav Puraskar, 2022, Lifetime Achievement Award, AIDS Society of India, 2022, Swami Ramanand Teerth Marathwada Gaurav Puraskar, 2021, Lifetime Achievement Award by the Army Institute of Technology, Pune on February 24, 2021, "Karmayogini Vijayatai Lavate Award" by Manavya on February 11, 2021, Legasis-Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) C1010 Gratitude Award on October 11, 2020, and Merit Award, HIV Congress 2016.

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About PRL

The Physical Research Laboratory (PRL), known as the “cradle of space science” in India, is one of the premier research institutes founded in 1947 by Prof. Vikram Sarabhai, a renowned Cosmic Ray Scientist, a great visionary and institution builder. PRL played a seminal role in producing a highly motivated cadre of space scientists and the technologists of highest international repute. The first scientific rocket launched from Thumba on 21st November-1963 and many other rockets launched thereafter contained payloads developed at PRL. Dr. Sarabhai initiated many of these scientific and technical activities at PRL which eventually led to the formation of the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO). Therefore, PRL is known as the “cradle of space science” in India. Further, the research in the area of Plasma Physics expanded to the formation of the Institute of Plasma Research (IPR).

As an institution PRL is unique in that it conducts fundamental research in a wide range of research areas from the Earth to the cosmos, and comprising Astronomy and Astrophysics; Solar Physics; Space and Atmospheric Sciences; Theoretical Physics; Geosciences; Atomic, Molecular and Optical Physics, Astrochemistry; and Planetary Sciences and Space Exploration. PRL is one of the rare research institutes of international repute wherein research in such diverse fields of sciences is carried out using several state-of-the-art experimental facilities that exist under one umbrella.

Along with the ongoing research, several new initiatives have been taken up during the last few years. The Multi-Application Solar Telescope (MAST) at Udaipur Solar Observatory has been operationalized. PRL initiated scientific programmes in frontier areas of research, which include a search for exo-planets, laboratory studies of interstellar grains, laboratory synthesis of cold astromolecules and experimental studies in the field of quantum optics. PRL is also developing several scientific payloads as a part of ISRO’s larger vision and contributing to roadmap for competitive scientific exploration of the solar system and beyond. In particular, PRL has been contributing significantly not only in building instruments for space missions, such as Chandrayaan-1, Chandrayaan-2, AstroSat and upcoming Aditya-L1, Chandrayaan-3 and planetary and space missions, but also by bringing out new and insightful science results.

PRL contributes to several national and international research programmes and to human resource development through its Doctoral and Post-Doctoral Programmes, capacity building programmes, such as UN Course on Space Science, and science and engineering internship programmes. PRL contributes significantly to society through its Outreach Programmes by periodically organizing science exhibitions and Open Houses, planned visits of students of various school and college to PRL, and popular talks at various institutions to not only share the excitements of the advancements of contemporary scientific findings but also to encourage students to take up sciences as their research career.

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