



## ICMR's 'First in the World Challenge' for Innovation

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Recently, the [Indian Council of Medical Research \(ICMR\)](#) has announced the “**First in the World Challenge**” aimed at encouraging innovative solutions to pressing health issues.

- This initiative seeks to foster **novel, out-of-the-box ideas** and promote the discovery and development of breakthrough **health technologies**, including **vaccines, drugs**, and diagnostics.
- Proposals must present bold, impactful global health research concepts, **not ‘incremental innovations’ or ‘process innovation’**. The **high risk, high reward challenge** aims for revolutionary biomedical breakthroughs, despite potential failures.
  - **Proposals** can be submitted by **individuals or teams** from single or multiple institutes, evaluated by a selection committee of experts.
- In a recent advancement, ICMR has formalised agreements under its ‘[Network for Phase 1 Clinical Trials](#)’, which includes collaborations for developing treatments for various diseases such as **multiple myeloma** and **Zika virus**.
  - This initiative aims to position India as a leader in the clinical development of pharmaceutical agents and innovative health solutions.
- ICMR is the **apex body** in India for the **formulation, coordination** and **promotion of biomedical research**.
  - It comes under the [Department of Health Research, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare \(MoH&FW\)](#).

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