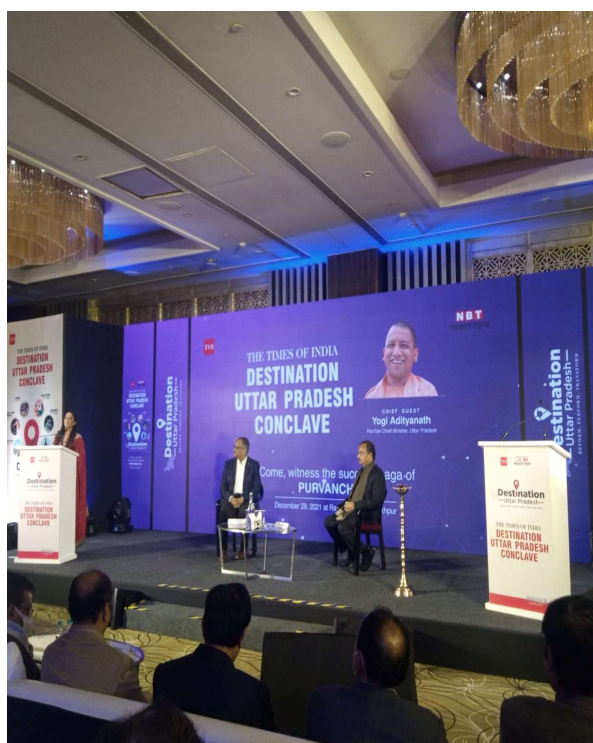


The Times Of India Destination Uttar Pradesh Conclave

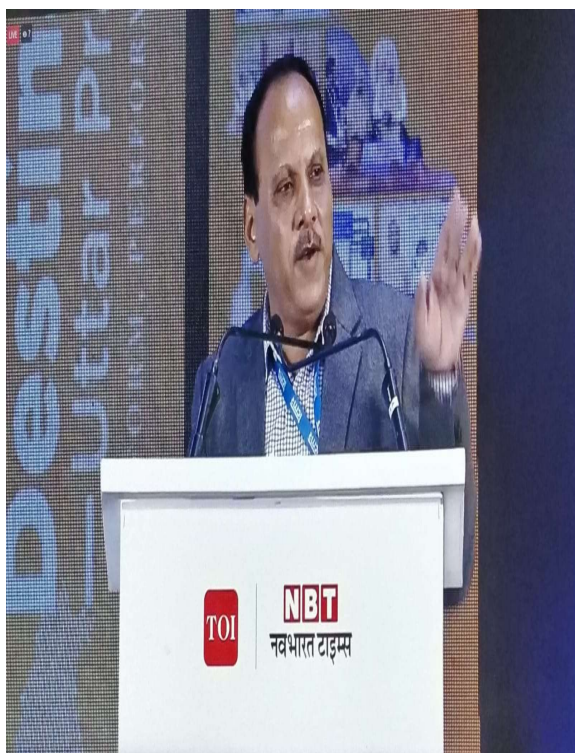
Witness The Success Saga Of Purvanchal

The Times Group hosted a one-day "The Times Of India Destination Uttar Pradesh Conclave-Witness The Success Saga Of Purvanchal" on December 29, 2021, at the Hotel Radisson Blu in Gorakhpur. The conclave began with an inaugural address by Guest of Honour Dr. Dinesh Sharma, Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister & Minister for IT & Electronics, Secondary & Higher Education Departments, Uttar Pradesh followed by addresses by Special Guest Sri Jai Pratap Singh, Hon'ble Cabinet Minister for Health and Family Welfare, Uttar Pradesh, Shri Ravi Kishan Shukla, Hon'ble Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha) from Gorakhpur and Shri Manoj Tiwari, Hon'ble Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha) from North-East Delhi. Expert speakers from all walks of life from Purvanchal region of Uttar Pradesh delivered their talk on this occasion.



Dr. Rajni Kant, Director, ICMR-RMRC Gorakhpur participated in the conclave as an expert of health issues concerning the region. He spoke on the topic "Systematic Slaying of Encephalitis." He began his speech by noting the ICMR's commitment to the nation's fight against the COVID-19 pandemic, including provision of diagnostic services, the formulation of treatment and diagnosis protocols, the development of indigenous vaccines, and so on. Following that, he stressed upon the gravity of JE and

AES in the Purvanchal region of Uttar Pradesh, specifically in the Gorakhpur and Basti commissioners.

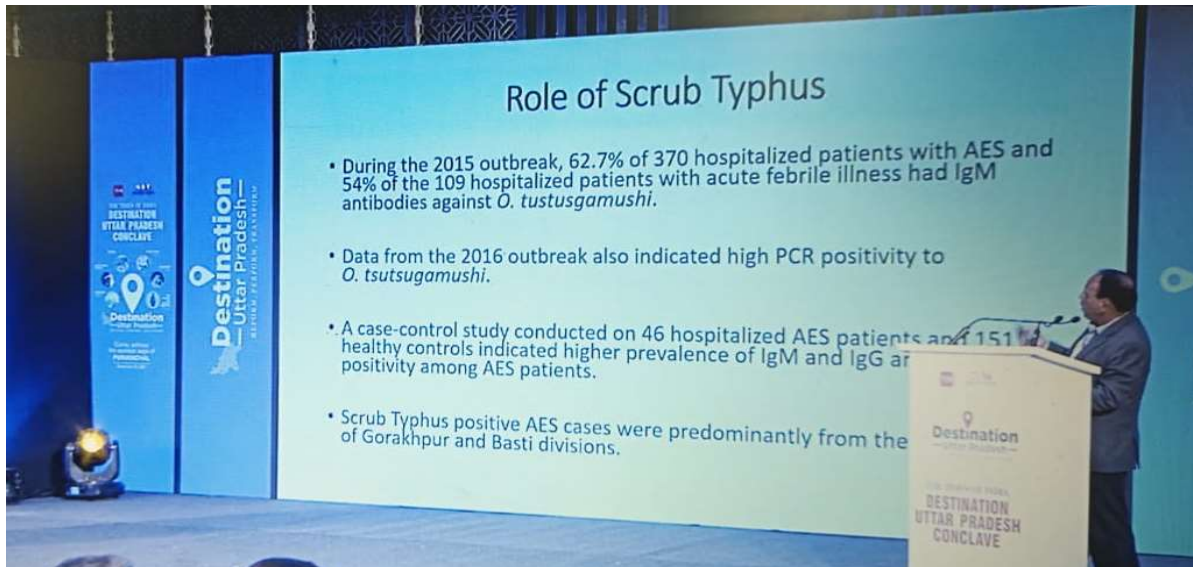


He went on to explain the causes of JEs and AESs in the area. He emphasized upon the topography of the area, which is prone to flooding, as well as the practice of intensive rice growing in the region. These two factors encourage the growth of *Culex* mosquitos, the vectors of Japanese encephalitis. He went on to outline the ICMR's research work in the fields of etiology, risk factors, genetic predisposition, and socio-behavioural aspects related with JE and AES. The main finding from this research was the discovery of Scrub Typhus as a major cause of AES in the region.

He discussed the initiatives taken by ICMR-RMRC Gorakhpur and the former Gorakhpur field centre of NIV, Pune in the region to control JE/AES, which included diagnostic facilities, the preparation of a white paper and diagnostic algorithm, vaccine prevalence and efficacy studies, the establishment of a JE/AES cell, collaborative work with other ICMR institutes, the recommendation of presumptive treatment of Scrub Typhus with Doxycycline and Azithromycin, and other work done. Then he spoke about the actions taken by the state government in response to the centre's recommendations, such as upgrading sanitary facilities, providing safe drinking water, making diagnostic facilities available at PHC, CHC, and district hospitals and training of physicians. He specifically mentioned "DASTAK,"

a large door-to-door campaign against JE and AES initiated by the Uttar Pradesh government in collaboration with UNICEF to raise public awareness.

He emphasized that these steps have resulted in a significant reduction in the incidence and deaths due to JE/AES in the region. He also discussed the challenges and future priorities in the area's systemic elimination of JE and AES.



He also showed a video clip highlighting achievements by ICMR-RMRC Gorakhpur and the former Gorakhpur field centre of NIV, Pune in the area of fight against JE/AES in the region. Furthermore, the film highlighted the features of the institute's state-of-the-art new building and how it will further promote research on numerous communicable and non-communicable diseases in the region.

Shri Yogi Adityanath, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, honoured the conference with his presence and praised The Times Group and all the speakers for the conclave's excellent organization.



He also mentioned about the inauguration of the new ICMR-RMRC building in Gorakhpur by the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on 07/12/2021 and praised the centre's work on different health issues affecting the region. The Hon'ble Chief Minister also highlighted the expanded capacity of ICMR- RMRC Gorakhpur for the diagnosis and timely treatment of various vector-borne diseases.