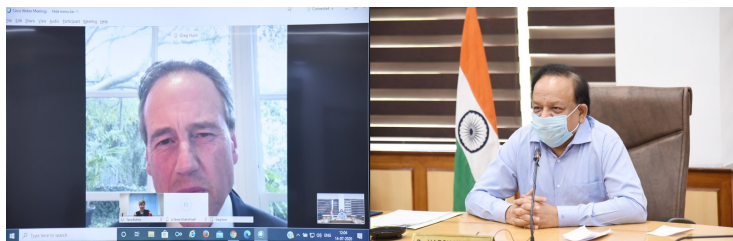


India discusses bilateral health co-operation with Australia

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India and Australia have signed an MoU on co-operation in the field of Health and Medicine on 10th April, 2017



Dr. Harsh Vardhan, Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare, Government of India had a digital interaction with his Australian counterpart Mr. Gregory Andrew Hunt to discuss bilateral Health co-operation.

India and Australia have signed an MoU on co-operation in the field of Health and Medicine on 10th April, 2017. The MoU covers areas of mutual interest like the management of communicable diseases like Malaria and Tuberculosis, mental health and non-communicable diseases, antimicrobial resistance, regulation of pharmaceuticals, vaccines and medical devices and digitization of health infrastructure.

The MoU also covers response to public health emergencies like the present COVID pandemic.

Elaborating upon the role of India's medical community in containment and management of the pandemic, Dr. Harsh Vardhan noted that India's medical professionals, paramedics and scientists have played a pivotal role in containing COVID-19. He stated that they are helping in drug discovery and in repurposing of existing drugs. They have also isolated the virus in the early onset of diseases and are engaged in studying the virus using Genome sequencing. "From just one lab to test the virus in January 2020, India now has more than 1200 labs all across the country facilitating the people in widespread testing, he further added. India's drug manufacturers have also enabled India to supply Hydroxychloroquin to 140 countries."

The Health Ministers agreed to continue to jointly work in the area of health and other common interests.