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Government of India

Ministry of Health & Family Welfare
(Department of Health Research)

2nd Floor, Red Cross Building, New Delhi

Dated: 17th June, 2022

Subject: - Monthly Summary to the Cabinet for the month of May, 2022-Reg.

The undersigned is directed to circulate herewith a copy of the unclassified portion of the **Monthly Summary for the Cabinet** pertaining to the Department of Health Research (Ministry of Health and Family Welfare) for the month of May, 2022.

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(H. C. Mondal)

Under Secretary to the Govt. of India

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To

1. All members of Council of Ministers
2. Deputy Chairman, NITI Aayog, Yojana Bhawan, New Delhi.
3. The Principal Information Officer, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, New Delhi

Copy to:

The Director, Cabinet Secretariat, Rashtrapati Bhawan, New Delhi-110001

Copy also forwarded for information to:

1. Secretary to the Government of India, All Ministries/Departments.
2. The Chairman, UPSC, Shahjahan Road, New Delhi.
3. Secretary to the President of India (Rashtrapati Ke Sachiv), Rashtrapati Bhawan, New Delhi.
4. Secretary to the Vice-President of India (Up-Rashtrapati ke Sachiv), Rashtrapati Bhawan, New Delhi.
5. PS to Prime Minister of India, South Block, New Delhi
6. Secretary, Inter-State Council Secretariat, MHA, Vigyan Bhawan Annexe, New Delhi.

**MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH RESEARCH**

Monthly report in the format on important issues/ developments for the month of May, 2022 is submitted herewith for kind perusal.

1. Important policy decisions taken and major achievements during the month:

A. Global coronavirus COVID-19 management and measures in India: Following new measures and initiatives were taken besides the timely COVID-19 testing and reporting.

- 1) **Expansion of COVID-19 testing facilities:** A total of 21 new testing labs (2 Govt. and 19 Private) were approved for covid-19 testing during the month. Accordingly, a total of 1,29,38,959 samples have been tested during the month and the testing capacity was increased up to more than 20,00,000/day.
- 2) **Approved a total of 3378 (1433 Governments and 1945 Private) Labs for COVID-19 testing.**

- Real-Time RT PCR for COVID-19: 2272(Govt: 798 + Private: 1474)
- TrueNat Test for COVID-19: 934 (Govt: 584+ Private: 350)
- CBNAAT Test for COVID-19: 129(Govt: 41 + Private: 88)
- Other Molecular-Nucleic Acid (M-NA) Testing Platforms for COVID-19: 43(Govt: 10 + Private: 33)

Note: Other Molecular-Nucleic Acid includes Abbott ID NOW, RT-LAMP, CRISPR-Cas9, and Accula™

3) Kits Distributed to Lab/States across the country during the month:

RT PCR	RNA Extraction	VTM
24,100	15,760	2000

- 4) **Conducted A multi-site case-control investigation on Risk factors for COVID-19 associated Mucormycosis in India.**
- 5) **Conducted Inter Laboratory QA/QC (ILQC) testing services to designated labs from Northeast for COVID-19 diagnosis.**
- 6) **Conducted an Immune response study to precautionary third dose of COVISHIELD/COVAXIN among healthy adult population: an ICMR Cohort study, India.**
- 7) **Coordinated with Colosseum Media for development of documentary on COVID-19 Vaccine development.**
- 8) **Online interview on the making of Covaxin and Omicron variants in the weekly series 'Corona Ko Harana Hai' for India Science Channel conducted by the Vigyan Prasar (VP).**
- 9) **In Daily media mapping ICMR has been quoted for more than 500 times in print in past 30 days.**

- B. **Policy decision for the field validation and development of SOPs** on the external validation of the mobile BSL-3 laboratory.
- C. **Investigation of suspected outbreak of Chicken Pox Infection in Anjaw district of Arunachal Pradesh:** All the three tested samples were found to be Varicella Zoster Virus IgM positive.
- D. **Investigation of suspected outbreak of acute diarrheal infection in West Jaintia Hills district of Meghalaya:** Out of 6 stool samples tested for gastrointestinal panel, three were found positive for Campylobacter species and Human Astrovirus.
- E. **Investigation of Japanese encephalitis outbreak and diagnosis:** During the period, all 65 samples (28 sera, 35 CSF and 02 nasal/throat swabs) of 39 cases of AES received for testing, none tested positive for JEV.
- F. **WHO Proficiency Testing Panel for VHF agent:** Twelve (12) WHO PTP coded samples spiked with VHF agents received from the WHO Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia Quality Assurance Programs (RCPAQAP) were tested for CCHF, Ebola, Marburg, Lassa and RVF viruses.
- G. **Identification and characterization of novel viral isolates using Next-generation sequencing platform:** One sample of sewage concentrate and one virus isolated from Mumbai were subjected to RNA extraction and to next-generation sequencing (NGS). Both the sewage concentrate and isolate yielded sequence retrieval of 99.4 and 99.7% of Type 1 Sabin-like virus respectively.
- H. **Development of Serodiagnostic Assays for Nipah Diagnosis and Surveillance:** A serodiagnostic assay was developed with Nipah virus propagated in the BSL-4 laboratory.
- I. **Hospital-based surveillance of respiratory pathogens in children below 5 years in Gorakhpur region.**
- J. **Sustainable laboratory network for monitoring Hemorrhagic Fever Viruses in India and enhancing bio-risk mitigation for high-risk group pathogens.**
- K. **Surveillance for Malaria:** Mass screening and surveillance for malaria on 15th May 2022 in Gurudhan, Shikaribari, Maldapara, Karnamoni subcentres of Tripura.
- L. **Initiated/completed 16 projects on** Prevalence and predictors of anaemia in pregnant women from MRHRU-Chabua catchment area; Assessment of the malaria situation and the role of Anopheles species in its transmission in selected international border areas adjoining the Districts of the North-Eastern States and the North-East corridor; Studies on the prevalence, distribution and biology of *An. culicifacies* in relation to malaria transmission and control in three 3 states of North-east India etc.
- M. **Published 64 lead papers** on Clinical, immunological and genomic analysis of the post vaccinated SARSCoV-2 infected cases with delta derivatives from Maharashtra, India, 2021; Reduced neutralizing antibody response in I Covishield ousneli against Omicron emphasizes booster vaccination; Neutralization assays for SARS-CoV-2: Implications for assessment of protective efficacy of COVID-19 vaccines etc.

N. IBD NutriCare App” for Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD) Patients **released by Director General, ICMR on World Inflammatory Bowel Disease Day (19th May)**”

O. **Signed 5 MoUs**

1. **With Minorities & Backward Classes Welfare Department, Government of Odisha** to establish a Tribal Health Observatory in Odisha (TriHOb) which shall locate, assemble, analyses, draw inference & synthesize data on health of tribal population of Odisha;
2. **With PGIMER, Chandigarh** for the conduct of the ICMR JRF NET Exam for next five years *i.e.* from 2022 to 2026;
3. **With Capital Hospital, Bhubaneswar** to promote Public health research, clinical health care and capacity building through mutual resource sharing like human resource, infrastructure facilities and expertise and technical collaboration and
4. **With Samant Chandrasekhar Autonomous College, Puri** for training, capacity building of students & faculties exchange program of the college;
5. **With Symbiosis International** for collaborative research and academic programs in the area of health research.

P. **Filed 4 Indian Patent applications on**

1. VCRC-ANM Mosquito feeder- A microcontroller based device for artificial diet/blood-feeding for mosquito rearing in the laboratory.
2. Customized 3D Printed Hollow Capsular Device, Uses and Method of Fabricating Thereof”.
3. Photoacoustic Spectroscopy And Machine Learning-Based Method To Detect Human Breast Tumor In Xenografts.
4. A System and Method for Phase Imaging and Absolute Refractive Index Measurement.

Q. **Filed 3 Design applications on ‘Elbow Replacement Prosthesis’.**

R. **Observed ‘World Lupus Day’** at Mumbai with participation of around 25 Systemic Lupus Erythematosus patients along with their relatives.

S. **Observed ‘World Haemophilia Day’** at Mumbai through Coagulation workshop-lecture series with 340 registrations with interactive sessions and hands-on Training Pathologists and Laboratory Technologists.

T. **Observed ‘World Malaria Day’** at Bhubaneswar, Dibrugarh by organizing health camps and information, education, and ounseling (IEC) events on malaria prevention practices.

U. **Observed ‘International Day of Immunology’** with talks on the topic “Vaccines: Protective shields against pathogens”.

V. **Published Op-ed entitled, “Hypertension Control should be a national priority”** in the Hindu Businessline, 24th May 2022.

2. Important policy matters held up on account of prolonged Inter-Ministerial consultations:

Nil

3. No. of cases of 'sanction for prosecution' pending for more than three months:

8 cases in Chennai CAT (7 cases are adjourned with directions and 1 case is in admission stage) and 1 case in Chennai High Court.

4. Particulars of cases in which there has been a departure from the Transaction of Business Rules or established policy of the Government:

Nil

5. Status of ongoing Swachhata Abhiyan (progress under Special campaign):

Undertaken various activities like Swachhata Pledge, displayed banner on Swachhata Pakhwada, Displayed slogan on Bhopal website, गाँव-गाँव, शहर-शहर जो भी हो परिवेश, निर्मल पर्यावरण हेतु स्वच्छता में करें निवेश; reorganization of the lab space; removing old proformas and obsolete items from lab and office premises and made more space workshop on swachhta, shramdaan activities, digitization of office records, disposal of old and redundant items; plantation of trees in the garden/campuses; production of organic manure from kitchen waste through manure converter etc at Bhopal, Chennai, Delhi, Jabalpur, Jodhpur, Mumbai.

6. Status of Rationalization of Autonomous bodies:

Nil

7. Information on specific steps taken for utilization of the space technology based tools and applications in Governance and Development:

Nil

8. Vacancy position of senior level appointments in the Ministry/Department, including Autonomous Bodies/PSUs:

Positions for Director General and Additional Director General

9. List of cases in which ACC directions have not been complied with:

Nil

10. Details of FDI proposals cleared during the months and status of FDI proposals awaiting approval in the Ministry/Department

Nil