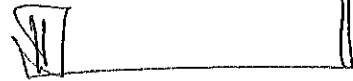


2nd Floor, Red Cross Building, New Delhi  
Dated: 10th January, 2022

**Subject: - Monthly Summary to the Cabinet for the month of December, 2021-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 December, 2021.



(H. C. Mondal)

Under Secretary to the Govt. of India  
Email: dhrhq.icmr@gmail.com

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 Summary for the Cabinet for December, 2021**

The Monthly report on important issues/development for the month of December, 2021 in respect of Department of Health Research/Indian Council of Medical Research is submitted herewith for your kind perusal.

**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 63 new testing labs (15 Govt. and 48 Private) were approved for covid-19 testing during the month. Accordingly, a total of 3,70,11,858 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 3110 (1361 Governments and 1749 Private) Labs for COVID-19 testing.**

**State-wise details:** Andhra Pradesh (146); Arunachal Pradesh (27); Assam (58); Bihar (82); Chandigarh (12); Chhattisgarh (60); Delhi (151); Gujarat (139); Goa (13); Haryana (83); Himachal Pradesh (36); Jammu & Kashmir (39); Jharkhand (53); Karnataka (216); Kerala (187); Maharashtra (319); Madhya Pradesh (130); Manipur (19); Meghalaya (22); Mizoram (13); Nagaland (15); Odisha (65); Puducherry (16); Punjab (68); Rajasthan (82); Tamil Nadu (317); Telangana (141); Tripura (6); Uttar Pradesh (306); Uttarakhand (69); West Bengal (171); Andaman & Nicobar Islands (5); Dadra & Nagar Haveli (1); Sikkim (4); Leh-Ladhak (4); Lakshdweep (10); Mobile testing lab (25).

-Real-Time RT PCR for COVID-19: 2007 (Govt: 715+Private: 1292)

- TrueNat Test for COVID-19: 941 (Govt: 594 + Private: 347)

- CBNAAT Test for COVID-19: 132 (Govt: 43 + Private: 89)

- Other Molecular-Nucleic Acid (M-NA) Testing Platforms for COVID-19: 30(Govt: 09 + Private: 21)

*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 Extracti on	VTM
1,92,572	1,21,400	2000

- 4) **Validation of serological and other test kits for COVID-19:** Validated one Rapid Diagnostic Test kit for detection of anti-SARS-CoV- IgG and IgM antibodies.

- 5) **Genomic surveillance and testing of Omicron variant in India:** A total of 1902 samples (1630 overseas travelers, 272 of their friends and family contacts) were referred from Maharashtra, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, and Port Blair for Omicron testing till 17<sup>th</sup> December 2021. Of these, qRT-PCR detected SARS-CoV-2 in 177 samples and a total of 111 samples were processed for whole-genome sequencing (WGS). Additionally, 164 samples were processed for S gene detection using the Taq Path assay and 116 samples had S gene detection, whereas 48 had S gene target failure (SGTF). Among 116S gene detected cases; 6 samples were detected as Omicron, whereas among 48 SGTF, 22 were Omicron. Omicron variant was detected in 59 cases (40 from Maharashtra, 17 from Rajasthan and one each from Gujarat and Tamil Nadu). The positive cases and their contacts were asymptomatic and genomic surveillance could identify two clusters one from Maharashtra and the other from Rajasthan.
- 6) **Antibody responses of inactivated SARS CoV-2 virus BBV152 vaccine in rhesus macaques:** Antibody response generated by three BBV152 vaccine formulations, in aged Rhesus macaques showed neutralizing antibody response in aged rhesus macaques following two-dose vaccination irrespective of the concentration of antigen in the vaccine formulation by 21 days and a third dose post 2 months resulted in increased neutralizing antibody response in all the animals.
- 7) **Propagation and characterization of SARS-COV-2 isolates in cell culture and animal model:** Re-infection with Delta and B.1 variants in hamsters recovered after 3 months of infection showed reduced viral shedding, lung pathology and lung viral load, whereas the upper respiratory tract viral load remained similar to that of the first infection. The reduction in viral load and lung pathology after re-infection with Delta AY.1 variant was not marked. The prior infection could not produce sterilizing immunity but the protective effect was evident following reinfection.
- 8) **Prepared and submitted the interim clinical study report on COVAVAX Trial** [*A Phase 2/3, Observer blind, Randomized Controlled, Multicentric, Study To Determine The Safety And Immunogenicity of COVAVAX In Indian Adults*] based on interim data analysis of 1596 participants who completed day 36 visit for the submission of regulatory authorities and WHO Technical Advisory Group for Emergency Use Listing (TAG-EUL), approved to be use Globally.
- 9) **Initiated the Solidarity Trial** for Hospitalized COVID 19 patients in Guwahati Assam and Hyderabad Telengana.
- 10) **Developed Real-time PCR kit for detection of Omicron variant of SARS-CoV-2** using TaqMan probe-based chemistry.
- 11) **Developed Heat and snap chill method for low-cost nucleic acid isolation to diagnose SARS-CoV-2** by real-time PCR. Internal validation completed.
- 12) **Undertaken drone based vaccine delivery (i-DRONE) study** and delivered a total of 17,275 units of medical supplies (COVID-19 vaccines, routine immunisation vaccines, antenatal care medicines, multi-vitamin medications) in three districts of Manipur i.e. Imphal West, Bishnupur and Churachandpur and two districts of Nagaland i.e. Mokokchung and Tuensang.

- b) **Inaugurated ICMR-RMRC center at Gorakhpur by Hon'ble PM**, in the presence of Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh.
- c) **Inaugurated and operationalized the Apex Referral laboratory on Sickle Cell Control** in the state of Madhya Pradesh.
- d) **Inaugurated the MSc Virology program** at ICMR-NIV, Pune.
- e) **Zika investigation and surveillance:** Initiated Zika screening in pregnant women presenting with fever and rash and steps to take aggressive and appropriate vector control measures in Kerala, UP, Maharashtra and Rajasthan. All 685 samples received from 3 different centers for Zika virus RNA testing by real-time RTPCR found negative.
- f) **Showcased ICMR's research activities and achievements at Expo 'IISF 2021'** held at Goa.
  - aa) **Observed "Constitution Day"** at Delhi, Dibrugarh.
  - bb) **Organized 'Hindi workshop'** at Jodhpur via lectures on 'Official Language Rules and Policies and Information regarding periodical reports related to official language Hindi'
- g) **Health Technology Assessment in India**, Department of Health Research, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India in collaboration with International Decision Support Initiative (iDSI), UK, organized an International Symposium on Health Technology Assessment "Translating Knowledge and Best Practices into Policy for Evidence-Informed Decision making in Healthcare Sector for Universal Health Coverage" on 10<sup>th</sup> December, 2021 at Sushma Swaraj Bhwan, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi, India.
- h) **Surrogacy Regulation Bill 2020 and the Assisted Reproductive Technology Banks, Prevention of Misuse, Safe and Ethical Practice of Assisted Reproductive Technology Services (ART), Bill, 2020** were placed in the Parliament both the bills were passed through the lower and the upper house of the parliament and published in the Gazette of India as Surrogacy Act and ART Act.
- i) **5<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting of HTAIn** was conducted on 23<sup>rd</sup> December, 2021 under the chairmanship of Prof. V. K. Paul, Member, NITI Aayog.
- j) **One Medical College level Viral Research and Diagnostic Laboratory (VRDL)** has been established at Govt. Medical College Kota Rajasthan during the month December, 2021