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Government of India

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

2nd Floor, Red Cross Building, New Delhi

Dated: 13th December, 2021

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

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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

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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 November, 2021

The Monthly report on important issues/development for the month of November, 2021 in respect of Department of Health Research/Indian Council of Medical Research is submitted herewith for your 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 36 new testing labs (10 Govt. and 26 Private) were approved for covid-19 testing during the month. Accordingly, a total of 3,51,55,046 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 3047 (1346 Governments and 1701 Private) Labs for COVID-19 testing.**
State-wise details: Andhra Pradesh (144); Arunachal Pradesh (27); Assam (58); Bihar (79); Chandigarh (12); Chhattisgarh (58); Delhi (146); Gujarat (135); Goa (12); Haryana (77); Himachal Pradesh (36); Jammu & Kashmir (38); Jharkhand (53); Karnataka (213); Kerala (186); Maharashtra (311); Madhya Pradesh (129); Manipur (19); Meghalaya (22); Mizoram (12); Nagaland (15); Odisha (65); Puducherry (16); Punjab (68); Rajasthan (81); Tamil Nadu (309); Telangana (139); Tripura (6); Uttar Pradesh (296); Uttarakhand (69); West Bengal (167); 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: 1948 (Govt: 694+Private: 1254)

- TrueNat Test for COVID-19: 940 (Govt: 600 + Private: 340)

- CBNAAT Test for COVID-19: 130 (Govt: 43 + Private: 87)

- Other Molecular-Nucleic Acid (M-NA) Testing Platforms for COVID-19: 29(Govt: 09 + Private: 20)

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
1,45,250	3,62,180	0

4) The following procurements were made regarding COVID-19 testing through HITES and ICMR Hqrs during the period.

Sl. No.	Name of Item	Quantity of order	Date of Purchase Order
1.	Abbott ID NOW Rapid Molecular system cartridges	48 reactions	10-Nov-2021
2.	RT-PCR test kits	4 Lakh	12-Nov-2021

- 5) **Validation of serological and other test kits for COVID-19:** Evaluated 02 RTPCR kits for detection of anti-SARS-CoV 2 of GCC Biotech Diagsure nCoV-19 detection assay.
- 6) **Biorepositories for COVID-19:** Recruited 100 COVID-19 confirmed cases under Follow-up group and 580 samples of SARS-CoV-2 infection were collected under Cross-sectional category from North East states.
- 7) **Effectiveness of Covaxin and Covishield vaccines against severe COVID-19 in India, 2021: Multi-centric hospital-based case-control study.** Evaluated effectiveness of BBV152/Covaxin and AZD1222/Covishield vaccines against severe COVID-19 among individuals aged ≥ 45 years, through a multi-centric, hospital-based, case-control study between May and July 2021. Cases enrolled were of severe COVID-19 patients and controls were COVID-19 negative individuals from 11 hospitals. Vaccine effectiveness (VE) was estimated for duration between two vaccine doses full vaccination (2 doses ≥ 14 days) and partial vaccination (1 dose ≥ 21 days) and against the Delta variant enrolling 1,143 cases and 2,541 controls using a random-effects logistic regression model to calculate adjusted Odds ratios (aOR) with 95% CI after adjusting for relevant known confounders. The vaccine efficacy (VE) of full vaccination was found to be 80% (95% CI: 73%-86%) with AZD1222/Covishield and 69% (95% CI: 54%-79%) with BBV152/Covaxin. The VE was highest for a gap of 6-8 weeks between two doses of AZD1222/Covishield (92%, 95% CI: 82%-96%) and BBV152/Covaxin (92%, 95% CI: 26%-99%). The VE estimates were similar against the Delta strain and sub-lineages. BBV152/Covaxin and AZD1222/Covishield were effective against severe COVID-19 among the Indian population during the period of dominance of highly transmissible Delta variants in the second wave of the pandemic. An escalation of the two-dose coverage with COVID-19 vaccines is critical to controlling the pandemic in the country.
- b) **Launched** the Medical Device and Diagnostics Mission Secretariat (MDMS).
- c) Regional consultative workshop on Health Technology Assessment (HTAIn) was organized in collaboration with NHM, Tamil Nadu on 26th November, 2021 in Chennai.
- d) **Completed enrollment of 'end TB trial'** with a total of 754 participants in the end TB phase III trial from multiple sites across the world.
- e) **Released "Stroke Incidence and Mortality":** A Report of the Population Based Stroke Registries, India.
- f) **Outbreak investigation and Diagnostic services for referred samples for viral hemorrhagic fever with ARDS condition & unknown etiology:** After detection of positive case for Zika virus case from Kanpur, with atypical Zika presentation; a countrywide Zika surveillance was initiated involving 26 VRDLs from North, North East, West, Central, East and Southern parts of India for screening of respiratory panel viruses including influenza A and B, parainfluenza viruses (1-4), adenoviruses, respiratory syncytial viruses, rhinoviruses, human metapneumovirus, Nipah virus and SARS-COV-2 viruses, Zika Dengue, Chikungunya virus led to the detection of 126 cases.
- g) **Investigation of Japanese encephalitis outbreak and routine diagnosis:** During the period, 91 samples (43 sera and 48 CSF) of 48 cases of AES were received for testing. Out of 48 cases, none was positive for JE. Out of 12 samples that showed indeterminate results in JE IgM ELISA, 06 were confirmed to be positive for IgM antibodies to dengue. A total of 27 cases were screened for Chandipura virus by IgM ELISA and PCR, and all tested negative.

Besides above testing, another 99 samples from NE states have been screened for Influenza virus positivity and 5 samples were tested positive for Influenza B (Victoria) having the positive test rate of 5.05%. In addition, during this period, 536 ILI and SARI cases were screened. IgM for HSV 1 & HSV 2 was conducted in one sample together with CMV in two samples, EBV in one sample and Parvovirus in one sample by ELISA. All the samples were tested negative for the respective above-mentioned viruses.

- h) **Conducted the online Telemedicine panel session** during the 17th International Conference of Telemedicine Society of India.
- i) **Observed 'Communal Harmony Campaign week'** at Kolkata, Delhi via seminar lectures and singing of National Anthem.
- j) **Organized a special drive on Swachhata Abhiyan** at Delhi, Jodhpur, Mumbai, Pune through collection of e waste, identification and shredding of old records, internal cleaning of the department, identification of non-repairable disposal items, Karseva by NARI employees, sanitization of the campus, community based Swachhata awareness activities and administration of Swachhata pledge.
- k) **Observed 'Jan Utsav Week', 'National Unity Day' and 'Vigilance Awareness Week'** at Agra, Bhubaneswar, Dibrugarh, Jodhpur, Mumbai.

2. 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 High Court.