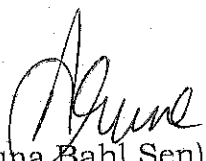


जति 30/10/20
15/10/20

2nd Floor, Red Cross Building, New Delhi
Dated 21st October, 2020

Subject: - Monthly Summary to the Cabinet for the month of September, 2020-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 September, 2020.


(Aruna Bahl Sen)

Deputy 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 September, 2020

Monthly report in the format on important issues/ development for the month of September, 2020 is submitted herewith.

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

a) Global coronavirus COVID-19 management 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 308 new testing labs (101 Govt and 207 Private) were approved and functionalized for covid-19 testing in the month. Accordingly, a total of 3,26,81,326 samples have been tested in the month and the testing capacity was increased up to 12,06, 806/day.
- 2) **Approved a total of 1832** (1087 Governments and 745 Private) Labs for COVID-19 testing.
State-wise details: Andhra Pradesh (95); Arunachal Pradesh (15); Assam (34); Bihar (57); Chandigarh (4); Chhattisgarh (39); Delhi (72); Gujarat (65); Goa (7); Haryana (38); Himachal Pradesh (30); Jammu & Kashmir (27); Jharkhand (40); Karnataka (140); Kerala (95); Maharashtra (171); Madhya Pradesh (96); Manipur (11); Meghalaya (14); Mizoram (11); Nagaland (14); Odisha (51); Puducherry (11); Punjab (51); Rajasthan (44); Tamil Nadu (184); Telangana (65); Tripura (4); Uttar Pradesh (194); Uttarakhand (39); West Bengal (101); Andaman & Nicobar Islands (5); Dadra & Nagar Haveli (1); Sikkim (2); Leh-Ladhak (3); Lakshdweep (2).

- Real-Time RT PCR for COVID-19 : 931 (Govt: 479 + Private: 452)

- TrueNat Test for COVID-19 : 774 (Govt: 574 + Private: 200)

- CBNAAT Test for COVID-19 : 127 (Govt: 34 + Private: 93)

- 3) **Status of COVID-19 vaccines development in India:** Following four ICMR collaborative vaccines programs are under different stages of development.
 - a. **Covaxin development in partnership with Bharat Biotech International Limited (BBIL):** Completed Phase I clinical trial on an inactivated whole virus candidate vaccine (BBV152) in 375 volunteers at 12 centers across India, along with completion of parallel pre-clinical studies in hamsters and rhesus monkeys. Also completed Phase II enrolment of participants. Vaccine is found safe. Further analysis of immunogenic data is under progress.
 - b. **Development of ZyCov-D vaccine in partnership with Zydus Cadila Healthcare Limited:** Completed phase I clinical trial and vaccine was found very safe and immunogenic. Phase II enrolment also completed. Parallel pre-clinical studies in rhesus monkeys are under progress.

- c. **Development of COVISHIELD, Oxford recombinant vaccine in partnership with Serum Institute of India:** ChAdOx1-s, a non replicating viral vector vaccine is undergoing Phase II clinical trial in Brazil. Phase II/III bridging studies in India have been funded and started by ICMR at 14 clinical trial sites. Phase II enrollment completed.
 - d. **Development of Novavax vaccine USA in partnership with Serum Institute of India (SII):** ICMR also partnered with SII for clinical development of a glycoprotein subunit adjuvanted vaccine developed by Novavax USA. The clinical trial will be initiated in second half of October after the vaccine is manufactured by SII.
- 4) **Initiated BCG Vaccine trial** to assess the effectiveness of BCG vaccine in improving outcomes in COVID-19 affected elderly people (60-80 yrs) is ongoing at 5 sites.
 - 5) **Completed population based second sero- survey** for SARS-CoV-2 infection transmission in India in 6 districts of Maharashtra (Jalgaon, Ahmednagar, Beed, Nanded, Parbhani, and Sangli); 3 districts of Madhya Pradesh (Ujjain, Dewas and Gwalior); 10 districts of Chhattisgarh; in Paralakhemundi Municipality of Gajapati District and Bhubaneswar Municipality Corporation staff in Orissa; in 3 districts of Telangana (Nalgonda, Jangaon and Kamareddy); in 6 districts of West Bengal.
 - 6) **Completed convalescent plasma therapy trial** in a total of 464 participants (intervention-235, control -229) across 39 hospitals, which were monitored over 28-day period for a set of clinical and laboratory parameters. The trial has revealed no significant benefit of plasma therapy in terms of reducing severity of disease and mortality. Results are in communication for publication.
 - 7) **Initiated COVID Vaccine Clinical Trial:** "A Phase 2/3, Observer-blind, Randomized, Controlled study to Determine the Safety and Immunogenicity of COVISHIELD (COVID-19 Vaccine) in Healthy Indian Adults" at SRMC, Chennai.
 - 8) **Performed validation of 38 COVID-19 test kits:** [RT-PCR kits: 1; rapid antibody test kits: 23; ELISA kits: 13 (including 07, 02 and 03 for detection of anti-SARS-CoV-2 IgG, IgM and total antibodies, respectively); RNA extraction kits: 1].
 - 9) **Completed screening of potential antiviral drugs for SARS-CoV-2:** Antiviral assays of three compounds have been completed, and nine compounds (including 5 submitted by Cipla) are currently being evaluated.
 - 10) **Conducted an internal laboratory quality assessment** of COVID-19 testing for 20 laboratories in Karnataka.
 - 11) **COVID 19 kit depot management and handling logistics** for Kit receiving and dispatch as per request and approval across the country.
 - 12) **Prepared and supplied reagents** for the SARS-CoV-2 IgG ELISA and one batch of antigen handed over to Karva Enterprises.
 - 13) **Organized two days hands-on workshop on "COVID-19 diagnosis by RT-PCR"** for VRDL and other labs of the northeastern region.
 - 14) **Filed Indian patent application** on the invention titled "Reusable nonwoven polyester/ polycotton/ polypropylene fabric based mask as barrier for SARS-CoV-2 virus and bacterial species" Application No 202011038718, dated 08-09-2020.

- 15) **Conducted Training program on COVID-19 diagnosis and testing** to personnel's of various institutions from Pune.
 - 16) **Organized a COVID 19 awareness campaign** at Slum area in 20 Gram Kadapara near EM Bypass Kolkata.
 - 17) **Published a special issue online on "India & COVID -19 (Part III)"** as July & August special issue.
 - 18) **Published a Beyond COVID-19: Compendium on Return to Workplace Guide – An ICMR-NIOH Initiative.**
 - 19) **Organized a National level competition** on "Measures taken by Hospitals towards Worker/Workplace Safety during COVID" in collaboration with CAHO (Consortium of Accredited Healthcare Organization) & GHSP (Global Health Studies Program), from 11-31 Aug 2020 at Ahmedabad.
 - 20) **Issued 30 tweets on ICMR Twitter handle** on Covid-19 testing and updates, vaccination,
 - 21) **Regularly interacted with media** through telephonic medium, over 20 calls per day.
- b) Investigation of Cohorts for Zika Epidemiology in India (COZEI) Study:** All 128 sera samples received from study sites in Jaipur tested negative in Zika real-time RTPCR.
- c) Initiated/Completed 16 projects** on various subjects including "Mental health and social stigma among healthcare personnel involved in the management of COVID-19 patients in India; Establishment ICMR-Biorepositories for COVID-19; Impact of COVID-19 on Maternal and Child health services through the public health system in India; An in-house lateral flow immunoassay (LFIA) based point of care (POC) test using gold nanoparticle labelled antigens/antibodies for detection of COVID-19 IgG/IgM antibodies; Establishing serial sero-surveillance to monitor the trend of SARS-CoV-2, Dengue and Chikungunya infection transmission in the general population, India.
- d) Published 67 lead papers** including pooled testing for COVID-19 diagnosis by real-time RT-PCR: A multi-site comparative evaluation of 5- & 10-sample pooling; Antitussive nescapine and antiviral drug conjugates as arsenal against COVID-19: a comprehensive chemoinformatics analysis; Prevalence of SARS-CoV-2 infection in India: Findings from the national serosurvey, May-June 2020; Comparative host-pathogen protein-protein interaction analysis of recent coronavirus outbreaks and important host targets identification; Coronavirus disease 2019 in children: Clinical & epidemiological implications; Single-Cell RNA-seq identifies cell subsets in human placenta that highly expresses factors driving pathogenesis of SARS-CoV-2; Postpartum psychosis in mothers with SARS-CoV-2 infection: A case series from India; Universal screening identifies asymptomatic carriers of SARS-CoV-2 among pregnant women in India; Neutralizing antibody responses to SARS-CoV-2 in COVID-19 patients; The utility of a modified heat inactivation method for direct detection of SARS-CoV-2 by RT-qPCR in viral transport medium bypassing RNA extraction.

- e) **Undertaken more than 20 (Videoconferencing/ Webinar/ Virtual) meetings including** University College of London (UCL), UK regarding proposed MoU between ICMR and UCL,UK; meeting of Health Systems Steering Group to identify research priorities for inclusion in the UN Research Roadmap for the COVID-19 recovery; Meeting with Department of Health, Government of Rajasthan regarding Cancer Registration Activities in Rajasthan - Collaboration with NCDIR-NCRP; meeting on guidance for development of Medical Certification of Cause of Death software to Govt of Maharashtra; Webinar on Augmentation of testing capacity for COVID-19 under the Chairmanship of the Additional Chief Secretary to Govt., Health & Family Welfare Department, Govt. of Odisha; Webinar on Committee to evaluate the Flagship Program on "Tribal Health and Nutrition".
- f) **Developed an HIV-1 viral load EQA panels** for 64 viral load testing laboratories in the public sector covered under the national programme.
- g) **Observed 'World Environmental Week'** (World Cleanup Day: 19 Sep 2020; Zero Emissions Day: 21 Sep 2020); World Ozone Day (16 Sep 2020) by organizing Online Drawing competition on Ozone Safety (16-21 Aug 2020) at Ahmedabad.
- h) **Celebrated Hindi Pakhwada -2020** by organizing digital Hindi poster making competition and online training program on Hindi at Ahmedabad, Bhubaneshwar, Belagavi and Kolkata.
- i) Three VRDLs, at Medical College at Hamirpur, Mandi in Himachal Pradesh and Medical College, Burdwan in West Bengal, have been set up during the month of September, 2020.
- j) Assisted Reproductive Technology (Regulation) Bill, 2020 was introduced in the Lok Sabha on the 14th of September, 2020.
- k) Health Technology Assessment Virtual Workshop was conducted for 76 participants for the resource centre on 7, 8 & 9th September on Advance Health Technology Assessment Training.