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Government of India

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

स्वास्थ्य अनुसंधान विभाग
Department of Health Research

प्रति और प्रेषण अनुभाग
R. & H. Section

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2nd Floor, Red Cross Building, New Delhi

Dated the 11th February, 2020

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


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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:

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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 January, 2020

The Monthly report on important issues/development for the month of January, 2020 in respect of Department of Health Research/Indian Council of Medical Research is submitted herewith for your kind perusal. A gist of activities/preparedness to combat coronavirus has been included.

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

a) Outbreaks of Novel Coronavirus Infection in Wuhan, China, Readiness efforts by DHR: The 2019 Novel Coronavirus outbreak and preparedness of the DHR ICMR VRDL Network for detection and diagnosis for cases in India. In December, 2019, a series of pneumonia cases of unknown cause emerged in Wuhan, Hubei province, China, with clinical presentations greatly resembling viral pneumonia. Deep sequencing analysis from lower respiratory tract samples indicated a novel coronavirus, which was named 2019 novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV).

2019-nCoV caused clusters of fatal pneumonia with clinical presentation greatly resembling SARS-CoV. Patients infected with 2019-nCoV might develop acute respiratory distress syndrome, have a high likelihood of admission to intensive care, and might die. Evidence so far indicates human-to-human transmission for 2019-nCoV. Most patients present with fever, dry cough, dyspnoea, and bilateral ground-glass opacities on chest CT scans. These features of 2019-nCoV infection bear some resemblance to SARS-CoV and MERS-CoV infections. The 2019 Novel Coronavirus (nCoV) outbreak has been declared a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC) by the World Health Organization on 30th January, 2020.

The Department of Health Research ICMR network of Virus Research and Diagnostic Laboratories have been equipped with capacity to collect samples from suspected cases of nCoV. The ICMR- National Institute of Virology, Pune is the apex centre for the testing for the 2019 Novel Coronavirus (nCoV) in India. In addition, following laboratories from the DHR Virus Research and Diagnostic Laboratory Network are in readiness as on date 31st January 2020 to perform laboratory testing for the 2019 Novel Coronavirus from respiratory samples.

- All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi

- National Institute of Virology (NIV) Kerala Unit, Alappuzha, Kerala
- Kasturba Medical College, Mumbai
- Bangalore Medical College and Research Institute, Bangalore

In addition, the following 6 Virus Research and Diagnostic Laboratories are being provided the necessary requirements to initiate testing soon.

- National Institute of Cholera and Enteric Diseases (NICED), Kolkata
 - King Institute of Preventive Medicine and Research, Guindy, Chennai
 - King George's Medical University (KGMU), Lucknow
 - Sawai Man Singh (SMS) Medical College, Jaipur
 - Gandhi Medical College and Hospital, Secunderabad
 - Indira Gandhi Government Medical College and Hospital, Nagpur
- b) **WHO Global TB Programme adopted ICMR developed diagnostic test 'TrueNat'** as initial test for TB and MDR-TB in view of its high diagnostic accuracy.
- c) **National Institute of Research in Tribal Health (NIRTH), Jabalpur** designated as nodal centre for Training, Laboratory & Programme Monitoring under National Programme for Prevention and Control of Fluorosis (NPPCF).
- d) **National Institute of Occupational Health (NIOH), Ahmedabad** has been designated as WHO proficient laboratory for Measles and Rubella.
- e) **Participated and showcased** the ICMR technologies and major contributions in 107th **Indian Science Congress-2020 at Bengaluru.**
- f) **Prepared and submitted diet charts for pregnant women of six regions of India** viz. East, West, South, North, Central and Northeast to **Ministry of Women and Child Development**, Government of India to depict suitable diet for pregnant women as per availability of food items in their respective regions in a lucid manner with easy-to-follow tips.
- g) **Surveillance for Zika Infections and Cohorts for Zika Epidemiology in India (COZEI):** A total of 623 samples (including 622 sera and 01urine) received during this period, all tested negative for Zika virus RNA. Under cohorts for Zika Epidemiology, during the month a total of 78 serum samples were received from the field site in Jaipur. Serological testing for IgM and neutralizing antibodies to Zika and other flaviviruses are in progress.
- h) **AES Outbreak in Bihar:** Full research proposals to address the issues related to outbreaks of AES in Bihar have been finalized and funding process has been initiated. Some of the studies will be completed by April 2020.
- i) **Vaccines Trials of VPM1002 and Immuvac (Mw) in Preventing Tuberculosis (TB):** All sites initiated under Vaccine trial under 'India TB Research Consortium' and a total of 1709 subjects enrolled till now.

- j) **National TB Prevalence Survey:** Survey initiated in all states of the country and 38 clusters completed so far and 20 are ongoing.
- k) **Initiated/completed 38 projects** including Costing of public health services using a micro-costing approach in selected secondary and tertiary hospitals in India; Study on Polio and Non-Polio enterovirus infections in children with immunodeficiency at multiple medical institutes across India; Assessment of neonatal screening approaches for sickle cell disease and the effect of early intervention in management of the disease in tribal populations; Surveillance of enteric fever among rural population: A hospital based Tier-II surveillance in the catchment area of Tigiria block, Cuttack, Odisha; Enrolment for the project entitled "A Phase III, randomized, double-blind, three arm placebo controlled trial to evaluate the efficacy and safety of two vaccines VPM1002 and Immuvac (Mw) in preventing tuberculosis (TB) in healthy household contacts of newly diagnosed sputum positive pulmonary TB patients.
- l) **Conducted 6 important meetings** with **Department of International Health, Johns Hopkins, Bloomberg School of Public Health, USA** for exploring possibility of collaboration; experts meeting for procedural changes in Health Ministry's Screening Committee (HMSC); meeting on Advancing Dental Research in India; meeting on NRLs Capacity Building; meeting for developing a prioritized National Non-communicable Disease research; meeting with **Principal Secretary, Health & Family Welfare, Govt. of Chhattisgarh**, Commissioner Health, Director of Health Services, Govt. of Chhattisgarh for 'Establishment of Model Rural Health Research Unit (MRHRU) at CHC Jheet, Patan Block, Durg district, Chhattisgarh.
- m) **Obtained technology patent (No. 310696)** on "Formulation with recombinant human lung surfactant protein SP-D for sexually transmitted infections including HIV".
- n) **Organized and imparted training** on 'Behavioural Sentinel Surveillance- Lite Main Survey' to State AIDS Control Societies, Targeted Intervention Support Units and Research Assistant for the states of Gujarat, Maharashtra and Rajasthan.
- o) **Organized 'Reconstructive Surgery Camp'** for Leprosy affected persons with disability/deformity' at Agra and **Conducted Occupational Health Camp** for Pourakarmikas working in Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), Bangalore.