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

2nd Floor, Red Cross Building, New Delhi
 Dated 15th March, 2021

Subject: - Monthly Summary to the Cabinet for the month of February, 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 February, 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

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 February, 2021

Monthly report in the format on important issues/ development for the month of February, 2021 is submitted herewith.

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 40 new testing labs (10 Govt and 30 Private) were approved and functionalized for covid-19 testing in the month. Accordingly, a total of 2,06,99,158 samples have been tested during the month and the testing capacity was increased up to more than 12,00,000/day.
- 2) **Approved a total of 2393** (1220 Governments and 1173 Private) Labs for COVID-19 testing.

State-wise details: Andhra Pradesh (124); Arunachal Pradesh (26); Assam (50); Bihar (63); Chandigarh (8); Chhattisgarh (47); Delhi (98); Gujarat (94); Goa (9); Haryana (55); Himachal Pradesh (32); Jammu & Kashmir (31); Jharkhand (43); Karnataka (186); Kerala (149); Maharashtra (217); Madhya Pradesh (106); Manipur (15); Meghalaya (19); Mizoram (11); Nagaland (14); Odisha (56); Puducherry (14); Punjab (57); Rajasthan (72); Tamil Nadu (257); Telangana (93); Tripura (5); Uttar Pradesh (232); Uttarakhand (62); West Bengal (125); Andaman & Nicobar Islands (5); Dadra & Nagar Haveli (1); Sikkim (3); Leh-Ladhak (4); Lakshdweep (2) ; Mobile testing lab (8)

- Real-Time RT PCR for COVID-19: 1370 (Govt: 542 + Private: 828)
- TrueNat Test for COVID-19: 888 (Govt: 634+ Private: 254)
- CBNAAT Test for COVID-19: 132 (Govt: 42 + Private: 90)
- Other Testing Platforms for COVID-19: 03 (Govt: 02 + Private: 01)

Status of COVID-19 vaccines development in India: Following four ICMR collaborative vaccines programs are under different stages of development.

- a. **Development of Covaxin in partnership with Bharat Biotech International Limited (BBIL):** Initiated Phase 3 clinical trials in 25,800 participants at 26 centers across India. The Phase III enrollment has been completed. Further analysis of data is under progress. Vaccine has been found to be safe as per

analysis of the available data. Restricted use of vaccine has been authorized in India from Jan 3, 2021.

- b. **Development of ZyCov-D vaccine in partnership with Zydus Cadila Healthcare Limited:** Initiated A phase III, randomized, multi-centre, double blind, placebo-controlled, study to evaluate efficacy, safety and immunogenicity of Novel Corona Virus-2019-nCov vaccine candidate by M/s Cadila Healthcare Limited. A total of 28216 participants to be enrolled at 46 centers. Trial is under progress.
 - c. **Development of COVISHIELD, Oxford recombinant vaccine in partnership with Serum Institute of India:** Initiated a Phase 2/3, Observer-Blind, Randomized, Controlled Study to Determine the Safety and Immunogenicity of Covishield (COVID-19 Vaccine) in 1600 Healthy Indian Adults at 15 sites across India. Trial completed, vaccine found safe and immunogenic. Vaccine has been authorized for emergency use in India on Jan 3, 2021.
 - d. **Development of Indigenous vaccine in partnership with Serum Institute of India (SII):** Completed pre-clinical studies of the indigenous SIIPL receptor-binding domain- virus-like particle (RBD-VLP) COVID-19 vaccine in the Syrian Hamster model and the results were shared with the respective stakeholders. Clinical phase of vaccine development is yet to be initiated.
 - e. **Two other vaccines trial; The Phase II clinical trial on Dr Reddys Laboratories Limited and Sputnik LLC vaccine and Phase I/II Human Clinical Trial clinical trial on Biological E's novel Covid-19 vaccine are ONGOING.**
- 3) **Monitoring and follow up of COVAXIN vaccination program across India along with monitoring of the adverse events (telephonically) in Covaxin vaccinated recipients is undergoing.**
 - 4) **Performed validation of 11 COVID-19 test kits:** During the month validated a total of 11 serological test kits for COVID-19, which included 07 rapid antibody test kits and 03 ELISA kits for detection of anti-SARS-CoV-IgG antibodies, and 01 chemiluminescence assay kit.
 - 5) **Antiviral Screening of potential agents for COVID-19 (National priority):** Completed cytotoxicity (MTT) assays on two candidate drugs against SARS-CoV-2 during the month. The report of one drug was conveyed to manufacturer and for other compound is under progress.
 - 6) **Kits Distributed to Lab/States across the country during the month.**

RT PCR	RNA Extraction	VTM
178072	114238	116800

- 7) **Signed 2 MOUs** each with Transasia Pvt. Ltd. and Aspen Laboratories Pvt. Ltd for transfer of technology on COVID-19 Rapid Antibody detection kit developed by ICMR.
 - 8) **Conducted Dr. H. M. Bhatia Oration** on "India's fight against COVID – Role of ICMR-NIIH, Mumbai.
 - 9) **Initiated making of ICMR and WHO film** on India's response to Covid-19.
 - 10) **Undertaken in person & Q& A interviews** by DG, ICMR with several news agencies like ANI, the Week, LiveMint etc.
 - 11) **Provided inputs** on the documentation of response action in Covid-19 to National Disaster Management Authority.
- b) Released National Non-Communicable Disease Monitoring Survey Report & Framework** of telemedicine guidelines for cancer, diabetes, stroke, cardiovascular diseases at NCDIR web portal.
 - c) Released report** on the profile of cancer and related health indicators in the Northeast Region of India.
 - d) Released Guidelines for 'Good Clinical Practices (GCLP), 2021' 'Evidence based status of Stem Cell Therapy in Human Diseases' and 'National Guidelines for Hematopoietic Stem Cell Therapy-2021'** at ICMR web portal.
 - e) Undertaken administrative control** of MRHRU (Model Rural Health Research Unit) Sirwar, Karnataka under the NIE, Chennai.
 - f) Organized an awareness camp** on cervical cancer and other cancers in female at Malacca Anganwadi Centre, Car Nicobar Island.
 - g) Celebrated the "International Day of Women and Girls in Science"** through webinar and lectures at Vizag.
 - h) A Brazilian delegation** led by H.E. Mr. Marcos Pontes, Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation, Govt. of Brazil visited Indian Council of Medical Research Hqrs. Office, New Delhi on 24th February, 2021 to exchange views on themes of common research interest and possible avenues for collaborative partnership. Meeting was Chaired by Prof. Balram Bhargava, Secretary (DHR) & DG, ICMR.
 - i) The meeting of core committee** for drafting the National Health Research policy was held on 5th February, 2021 under the chairmanship of Prof. V.K. Paul, Member, Health, Niti Aayog.
 - j) One MRHRU** has been sanctioned to be established in Ganjam, Odisha.
 - k) Two Viral Research and Diagnostic Laboratories (VRDLs)** have been set up at Atal Bihari Vajpayee Institute of Medical Sciences (ABVIMS) and RML Hospital, Delhi and AIIMS, Bhubaneswar.