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Government of India

Ministry of Health & Family Welfare

(Department of Health Research)

2nd Floor, Red Cross Building, New Delhi

Dated 09th December, 2020

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

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The Director, Cabinet Secretariat, Rashtrapati Bhawan, New Delhi-110001

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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, 2020

Monthly report in the format on important issues/ development for the month of November, 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) Hon'ble Union Home Minister Sh. Amit Shah and Minister for Health & Family Welfare Dr Harsh Vardhan, visited ICMR and unveiled the NABL accredited mobile RT-PCR Labs to make Covid testing more accessible across the country.
- 2) **Expansion of COVID-19 testing facilities:** A total of 139 new testing labs (43 Govt and 96 Private) were approved and functionalized for covid-19 testing in the month. Accordingly, a total of 3,02,19,497 samples have been tested in the month and the testing capacity was increased up to more than 12,00, 000/day.
- 3) **Approved a total of 2145 (1169 Governments and 976 Private) Labs for COVID-19 testing.**  
**State-wise details:** Andhra Pradesh (114); Arunachal Pradesh (23); Assam (44); Bihar (62); Chandigarh (8); Chhattisgarh (46); Delhi (85); Gujarat (78); Goa (8); Haryana (51); Himachal Pradesh (32); Jammu & Kashmir (27); Jharkhand (42); Karnataka (165); Kerala (126); Maharashtra (201); Madhya Pradesh (100); Manipur (14); Meghalaya (19); Mizoram (11); Nagaland (14); Odisha (54); Puducherry (13); Punjab (53); Rajasthan (59); Tamil Nadu (219); Telangana (85); Tripura (4); Uttar Pradesh (214); Uttarakhand (48); West Bengal (111); Andaman & Nicobar Islands (5); Dadra & Nagar Haveli (1); Sikkim (3); Leh-Ladhak (4); Lakshdweep (2)

- Real-Time RT PCR for COVID-19: 1163 (Govt: 520 + Private: 643)

- TrueNat Test for COVID-19: 854 (Govt: 610+ Private: 244)

- CBNAAT Test for COVID-19: 128 (Govt: 39 + Private: 89)

- 4) **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 enrollement of all 1,600 participants of Phase 2/3 clinical trial of COVISHIELD at 15 different centres, across the country. The trial and data collection 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. Enrolment of adaptive, multi-centric, randomised, double-blind placebo controlled Phase I/II dose escalation study is also completed. Phase III trial is to be initiated.
  - 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. Enrolment of Phase III clinical trial has completed, further data collection under progress.
  - 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. SII upscaled the manufacturing of COVOVAX, which was developed originally by American company Novavax. Clinical development of COVOVAX is under stage of planning.
- 5) **Completed round 3 of population based second sero-survey for SARS-CoV-2 infection transmission in Bhubaneswar.**
  - 6) **Performed validation of 22 COVID-19 test kits:** During the month 12 rapid antibody test kits and 07 ELISA kits (including 03, 02 and 02 and for detection of anti-SARS-CoV-2 IgG, IgM and total antibodies, respectively), 1 PCR kit and 2 RNA extraction kits were validated. Final reports of validation issued through the web portal.
  - 7) **Antiviral Screening of potential agents for COVID-19 (National priority):** Completed MTT assays for two compounds, and third compound is under test; while the antiviral assay completed for one compound and is under progress for two compounds.
  - 8) **Evaluation of Protective Efficacy of ZyCoV-D DNA Vaccine against SARS-CoV-2 Virus Challenge in Rhesus Macaques:** Initiated the preclinical vaccine study of ZyCoV-D DNA vaccine after shifting of the captive breed of rhesus macaques to the containment facility.
  - 9) **COVID 19 kit depot management at and handling logistics for Kit receiving and dispatch as per request and approval across the country.**

Number of kits (in reactions) supplied by depot from 01.09.20 to 24.11.20								
RT PCR			RNA Extraction			VTM		
Central Institutes/Labs	State Institutes/Labs	Total	Central Institutes/Labs	State Institutes/Labs	Total	Central Institutes/Labs	State Institutes/Labs	Total
355316	68584	412000	287546	33300	320846	105300	55400	160700

- 10) **Signed an MOU with Serum Institute of India (SII), Pune for raising equine anti-sera against SARS-CoV-2 and preclinical studies of an indigenous COVID-19 vaccine.**

- 11) Developed a COVID-19 Rapid Antibody detection kit.
- 12) Performed (IL-QC) Quality control of 4 designated COVID-19 testing laboratories and quarterly QC for 11 labs including Govt and private labs involved in COVID-19 RT PCR testing across the country.
- 13) The following procurement were made regarding COVID-19 through HITES and ICMR Hqrs during the period.

Sr No	Name of Item	Quantity of order
1	Abbott Architect SARs CoV IgG CLIA Kit	34,000 Tests
2	MDI Viral RNA Extraction kit silica technology (Silica membranes column)	1.8 Lakh Tests
3	Viral RNA Extraction kit magnetic beads based technology	8.4 Lakh Tests
4	MagB Viral RNA Extraction kit magnetic beads based technology	14 lakh Tests
5	MagB Viral RNA Extraction kit magnetic beads based technology	5.6 Lakh Tests
6	Q-line Viral RNA Extraction kit silica technology (Silica membranes column)	3 lakh Tests
7	Quant Studio 5 Dx	32 Nos.
8	Biosafety Cabinet	21 Nos.
9	Refrigerated Centrifuge for General and Research Purpose	16 Nos.
10	Industrial Refrigerator, Chiller and Deep Freezer	16 Nos.
11	Autoclave	11 Nos.
12	Autoclave	05 Nos.
13	Ice Lined Refrigerator (Large)	16 Nos.
14	Rapid Antigen Kit	10,000 Tests
15	Viral RNA Extraction Kit	4.8 Lakh Tests
16	Cobas 6800 SARs CoV2 Assay	15,000 Tests
17	Real Time PCR (Polymerase Chain Reaction) Kits For Novel Coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2/COVID-19)	15 lakh Tests
18	Real Time PCR (Polymerase Chain Reaction) Kits For Novel Coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2/COVID-19)	25 Lakh Tests
19	Real Time PCR (Polymerase Chain Reaction) Kits For Novel Coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2/COVID-19)	9.5 Lakh Tests

- 14) Completed WHO Solidarity Trial on four repurposed drugs: Remdesivir, Interferon  $\beta$ 1a, Lopinavir/Ritonavir and Hydroxychloroquine. Interim analysis showed no benefits of Remdesivir in any groups of COVID-19 (asymptomatic /mild / moderate /severe /critical) patients.

- 15) Released evidence based advisory to address 'Inappropriate Use of Convalescent Plasma in COVID-19 Patients', on ICMR portal.
  - 16) Released evidence based advisory on 'Molecular testing of COVID-19: Availability of testing platforms and their recommended use' on ICMR portal.
  - 17) Released advisory on 'CRISPR (Clustered Regularly Interspaced Short Palindromic Repeats) technology-based SARS-COV-2 test'.
  - 18) E-Training programme on "Role of Local self Govt. in managing COVID-19 situation"
  - 19) Delivered radio talk on COVID-19 awareness program in Odia language at All India Radio, Cuttack. Initiated COVID-19 appropriate behaviour campaign in state of Odisha.
- b) Initiated/completed 19 projects viz. Validation of a dry swab RNA-extraction-free method based diagnostic test for SARS-CoV-2 compared with the standard VTM based swab collection method; Phase II (modified technique) data; Impact of COVID-19 on maternal and child health services in India; Development of isothermal recombinase polymerase amplification and lateral flow analysis based rapid detection kit for *Orientia tsutsugamushi*; Clinical and epidemiological study of Lyme Disease: A Multi-Centric Task Force study in India; A prospective facility-based study of arthropod borne viral and bacterial aetiologies of non-malarial fever cases in Tripura; Providing quality assurance for both serological and molecular scrub typhus testing for DHR virus diagnostic laboratories across the country; Sero-prevalence and clinico-epidemiological and molecular aspects of Leptospirosis in Assam, India; Rickettsial diseases in the states of Manipur, Tripura and Sikkim in North-east India: Epidemiology, disease burden and vectors, Understanding the Genomics of Primary Immune disorders (PID) using Next Generation Sequencing (NGS); Study of network dynamics among people who inject drugs (PWID) in context of HIV transmission and access to services in India: a multi-centric study; Stigma Study; Medical health check-up of employees of GMDC mines; Area and personal noise monitoring and whole body vibration analysis of HEMM and other mining equipment at Sitapuri limestone mine, Dhar cement works, Ultra-Tech cement limited, Dhar district, Madhya Pradesh; Prevalence of fluorosis in the community of selected districts of India and development of an appropriate intervention model for prevention and control of fluorosis; Mycotoxin exposure, intestinal inflammation and childhood stunting in India; 'Skill Vigyan Program' for empowering S & T personnel in the state of Odisha; 'Centre for Study of Complex Malaria in India (CSCMI2.0)' and 'Center for the Study of Complex Malaria in India (ST3)'; Old drugs new tricks: Drug repurposing for psoriasis treatment using in silico approach.
- c) Filed Patent application on 'Biomarker panel to diagnose the malaria severity with statistical predictive model method'.
- d) Organized Sensitization and Training workshop on "Strengthening Mechanisms for Tuberculosis Death Reporting under The National Tuberculosis Elimination Program (NTEP) and The Registrar General of India.
- e) Imparted training and capacity building initiatives among ASHA workers and village volunteers for improving the malaria surveillance in 4 highly malaria endemic areas, namely Gurudhan, Shikaribari, Karnamani and Ganganahar in Dhalai districts of Tripura. Training and demonstration of the Bhu Health app to ASHA and other health workers in Gomoti and South Tripura districts for proper anti-malarial drug usage and malaria surveillance.