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(Department of Health Research)

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



(D. R. Meena)

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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:

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, 2021

The Monthly report on important issues/development for the month of September, 2021 in respect of Department of Health Research/Indian Council of Medical Research is submitted herewith for your kind perusal.

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 82 new testing labs (9 Govt. and 73 Private) were approved and functionalized for covid-19 testing in the month. Accordingly, a total of 5,12,78,873 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 2967 (1333 Governments and 1634 Private) Labs for COVID-19 testing.**

State-wise details: Andhra Pradesh (141); Arunachal Pradesh (27); Assam (56); Bihar (75); Chandigarh (12); Chhattisgarh (58); Delhi (140); Gujarat (132); Goa (10); Haryana (76); Himachal Pradesh (35); Jammu & Kashmir (36); Jharkhand (52); Karnataka (207); Kerala (180); Maharashtra (297); Madhya Pradesh (129); Manipur (18); Meghalaya (21); Mizoram (12); Nagaland (15); Odisha (64); Puducherry (16); Punjab (68); Rajasthan (81); Tamil Nadu (310); Telangana (135); Tripura (6); Uttar Pradesh (286); Uttarakhand (66); West Bengal (165); Andaman & Nicobar Islands (5); Dadra & Nagar Haveli (1); Sikkim (4); Leh-Ladhak (4); Lakshdweep (10); Mobile testing lab (26).

-Real-Time RT PCR for COVID-19: 1857 (Govt:665+Private: 1192)

- TrueNat Test for COVID-19: 952 (Govt: 616 + Private: 336)

- CBNAAT Test for COVID-19: 131 (Govt: 43 + Private: 88)

- Other Molecular-Nucleic Acid (M-NA) Testing Platforms for COVID-19: 27 (Govt: 09 + Private: 18)

3) **Procurement made regarding COVID-19 through HITES and ICMR Hqrs is as follows:**

Sl. No.	Name of Item	Quantity of order	Date of Purchase Order
1.	Real time PCR (Polymerase chain reaction) kits for Novel Coronavirus	5 lakh	10-Sep-21
2.	Viral RNA extraction Kits- Column based	1 lakh	10-Sep-21
3.	Viral RNA extraction Kits-Magnetic bead based technology	3.2 lakh	10-Sep-21
4.	Delivery of Medical Supplies using Unmanned aerial vehicles in selected locations in India	Hired on the basis of per sortie	10-Sep-21

4) **Kits Distributed to Lab/States across the country during the month:**

RT PCR	RNA Extraction	VTM
2,60,700	1,25,630	19,750

- 5) **Validation of serological and other test kits for COVID-19:** Validated a total of 41 test kits for COVID-19, including 02 Chemiluminescence Immunoassay kits for detection of anti-SARS-CoV-IgG antibodies, batch validation of 15 Viral Transport Media, 14 RNA extraction kits and 10 RTPCR kits for COVID-19 testing. Also validated 150 RAT for COVID-19 kits developed by ImgenexIndia Pvt. Ltd.
- 6) **Biorepository of serum for anti-SARS CoV-2 IgG antibodies:** A total of 206 serum samples were collected and tested for anti-SARS CoV-2 IgG antibodies by ELISA under the Biorepository project. A total of 127 post-vaccination serum samples received were tested by semi-quantitative anti-SARS CoV-2 SRBD IgG ELISA and antibody titers reported.
- 7) **QA/QC program for VRDLs:** Performed QC testing of 10 COVID-19 testing laboratories during the period. The Resource Centre for VRDLs received 133 samples from VRDLs, as part of the QA/QC program, and 80 were tested during the period. Test reports were issued to 2 VRDLs.
- 8) **Monitoring the adverse events in Covaxin vaccinated recipients.**
- 9) **Undertook various activities related to following clinical trials:** 1) **OTAC Clinical Trial** "An international multicenter, randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled trial of the safety and efficacy of anti-coronavirus hyperimmune intravenous immunoglobulin for the treatment of adult outpatients in early stages of COVID-19; 2) **Recovery clinical trial** "Adaptive clinical Trial to assess the efficacy of baricitinib in moderate cases of COVID-19.
- 10) **Organized a 'Vaccination drive for 2nd dose vaccination against COVID-19' at Jodhpur.**
- 11) **Performed Electron Microscopy and Pathology studies of membrane lipid interactions with spike protein of SARS-CoV-2 and Dengue virus NS1 protein.**
- 12) **Conducted COVID-19 Sero survey at 12 districts, Khordha, Puri, Jajpur, Mayurbhanj and Balasore from Central zone, Sambalpur, Jharsuguda, Keonjhar, and Sundargarh from Northern zone and Kandhamal, Kalahandi and Nabarangpur from Southern regions of the State of Odisha.**
- 13) **Undertook on-site evaluation of manufacturing of COVID-19 Nosodes BioSim Covex at Life Force Homeopathy & Haffkine Research Institute.**
- b) **Expanded 'India Hypertension Control Initiative' to 100 districts in all States.**
- c) **Release of National List of Essential Medicines (2021) by Shri Mansukh Mandaviya ji, Hon'ble Minister of Health & Family Welfare and Chemical and Fertilizers, Govt. of India**
- d) **Established 'National Marrow Donor Registry' at ICMR, New Delhi.**
- e) **Obtained Emergency Use Approval from the DCGI for a Nipah Point of Care RTPCR assay.**
- f) **Policy brief on "COVID-19STIGMA: Correlates and Mitigation Strategies"**
- g) **Published revised policy brief on proposed Laboratory testing algorithm for diagnosis of Acute Encephalitis Syndrome (AES) for the country to include Nipah virus testing in Kerala and West Bengal.**

h) Investigations of Acute Encephalitis Syndrome: A total of 364 CSF and Serum samples (76 from Maharashtra, 238 from UP and 50 from North East states) of the 223 cases were tested for JE and other viruses during the period.

Out of the 76 samples (41 sera and 35 CSF) of 49 AES cases from Maharashtra, two from Nagpur and one from the Aurangabad region tested positive in JEV IgM ELISA. Out of 06 samples that yielded indeterminate results in JEV IgM ELISA, one tested positive for dengue IgM antibodies. Cases (n=35) were also screened for Chandipura virus (CHPV) in IgM ELISA and PCR and all tested negative. Mosquito samples from the Nagpur region were screened for JE, West Nile and dengue viruses by PCR and all tested negative.

Of the 238 clinical specimens (CSF and Serum) of the 124 AES cases admitted to BRD Medical College, Gorakhpur, 5 tested positive for anti-JE virus IgM and 80 patient samples for anti-OTs IgM. The co-infection of JE virus and Scrub typhus was detected in 10 cases. One AES patient sample was reactive with anti-Chikungunya virus IgM. All these samples were found to be non-reactive for Dengue NS-1 antigen and in Malaria RDT.

Out of another 50 samples from NE states, 23 were tested positive for Japanese Encephalitis, 15 for Chikungunya, 15 for Dengue and 15 for Scrub typhus using respective IgM ELISA.

Besides, 163 ILI and SARI cases were investigated during the reporting period. Out of these, 14 Influenza B (Victoria) and 10 Influenza A (H3N2) were detected along with 26 SARS-CoV-2 positive cases.

Also validated a JE IgM ELISA Kit (Batch No. 21-034).

i) NIPAH outbreak containment response, Kozhikode, Kerala: (a) Confirmed a 12-year boy from Chathamangalam Gram Panchayat, Kozhikode as the index case of Nipah virus infection. (b) Deputed an ICMR team to support the state government towards enhancing the onsite laboratory diagnosis for Nipah virus which included offering a quick diagnosis for asymptomatic contacts as well as epidemiologically-unlinked Nipah suspected cases. (c) Established a field laboratory for testing of Nipah virus by Point of Care assay (PoC), Real-time RT-PCR and ELISA assays and onsite Nipah diagnostic facilities at Government Medical College, Kozhikode, Kerala State. (d) A total of 125 suspect/contact high-risk cases tested for Nipah virus infection at the on-site laboratory at (GMC), Kozhikode were found to be negative except the index case. (e) Performed Bat survey to track the source of infection for Nipah virus infection. The team collected the samples from a total of 102 bats after obtaining permission from the Principal Conservator of Forest and Principal Secretary Health, Govt. of Kerala, and testing of these samples is currently in progress. (f) Handed over the consumables, PPE and test reagents/kits for Nipah POC and real-time RT-PCR assay to the Regional VRDL, Kozhikode. (g) Tested a total of 32 clinical samples of symptomatic close contacts of the index case at NIV Pune and results were provided within 6-8 hours. As part of epidemiological investigations, fruit samples collected from the index case house were referred to ICMR-NIV, Pune and all tested negative for Nipah virus.

j) Setup and Operationalization of Rabies Laboratory: Prepared a seed stock of a cell culture-adapted strain of rabies virus for use as a standard reference strain in the diagnostic assays for rabies and to standardize the Rapid Fluorescent Focus Inhibition Test (RFFIT) [for estimation of rabies virus neutralizing antibody in clinical specimens of humans and animals].

k) Filed patent on A diagnostic device and method for differentiating Asthma-COPD Overlap Syndrome (ACO) from Asthma and COPD", wide application # PCT/IN2021/050793).

l) Organized "FIT India Freedom Run 2.0" at Pune, Delhi.

Celebrated Rajbhasa Hindi Pakhwara at Agra, Belagavi, Bhubaneswar, Dibrugarh, Jabalpur, Jodhpur, Mumbai through various competitions (Essay writing, Dictation, Debate, Quiz competition, Pehchano Kaun, Bas Ek Minute, Shabd Chaturya, extempore, speeches) along with taking of "Rajbhahsa Oath"

- n) Four Medical College level Viral Research Diagnostic Laboratories (VRDLs) have been sanctioned during the month of September, 2021.
- o) Under the scheme of Multi Disciplinary Research Units (MRUs), six new MRUs have been sanctioned during the month of September, 2021.