HIGHLIGHTS

- Department of Biotechnology’s supported COVID-19 vaccine ZyCoV-D, begins phase I/II clinical trials, becoming the first COVID-19 vaccine being developed indigenously to be administered to humans in India (Link)
- Considering the impact of COVID-19 pandemic on country’s health system, the 15th Finance Commission to include a separate chapter on health in its final report to the Government (Link)
- A subsidiary of Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research launched indigenous molecular probes used in RT-PCR COVID-19 detection kits (Link)
- National Research Development Corporation transferred two COVID-19 technologies related to active respirator mask and long lasting nano sanitizer for mass production in the country (Link)

INDIA SITUATION

As on 19 July 2020, 08:00 IST there were 373,379 Active Cases, 677,422 Cured/Discharged, 1 Migrated and 26,816 Deaths in India, details here.
WHO GLOBAL UPDATE

- 75 countries have submitted expressions of interest to protect their populations and those of other nations through joining the COVAX Facility, a mechanism designed to guarantee rapid, fair and equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines worldwide. The goal of COVAX is to deliver two billion doses of safe, effective vaccines that have passed regulatory approval and/or WHO prequalification., details here.
- WHO is supporting ongoing vaccination efforts during the COVID-19 pandemic by providing knowledge and assistance to immunization programmes worldwide and helping countries as they balance the threat of COVID-19 with the threat of vaccine-preventable disease outbreaks and related-deaths., details here.
- WHO updated the risk assessment tools for mass gatherings, religious gatherings, and mass gatherings during sports events to guide authorities and planning and event organizers during the current COVID-19 pandemic, details here.

WHO COUNTRY UPDATE

WHO Country Office for India (WCO) continues to work closely with MoHFW, on preparedness and response measures including epidemiological assessment, surveillance, testing, case management, containment and research activities for COVID-19 at the national, state and district level.

- **Co-ordination:** WCO continues to provide technical advice to MoHFW through JMG (Joint Monitoring Group). WCO personnel continue to be deployed with MoHFW to support SHOC room at the EMR Division and NCDC.
- **State Updates:** Across states, WCO continues to provide technical support to state and districts to train frontline workers (ASHAs/ANMs) on IPC, contact survey, screening of high-risk population, ILI/SARI surveillance and addressing mental health. Key highlights include:
  - **Delhi** Secretariat was provided with additional support for epidemiological assessment of surge capacity to further support COVID preparedness and responses even as daily cases decline. WCO in partnership with UNHCR set-up 14 foot-operated hand washing stations (500 liters) along with soap dispensers at Sardar Patel COVID Care Hospital (SPCCH), world’s largest COVID care hospital. WCO is also supporting training on surveillance and IPC at SPCCH and another 1000 bedded facility by Défense Research Development Organization.
  - **Karnataka** – WCO conducted a virtual training on Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) in Healthcare Facilities - IPC Monitoring Tool (developed by WCO) was introduced to all state level Deputy Directors supervising DCHC and DCH, DHOs, District Surgeons and DSOs, District FW officers and District Consultant for Quality Assurance from all districts, Microbiologist/Pathologist (Nodal officer for IPC), Nursing superintendent, District Hospital Quality Managers from all District Hospitals.
  - **Uttar Pradesh** WCO is supporting in micro planning for containment activities and monitoring of house to house survey for ILI screening. As of 17th July, a total 1,25,47,125 houses have been covered and 7,780 symptomatic found so far.
- **Laboratory testing:** Starting from one diagnostic lab for COVID-19 testing in Jan 2020, the country now has 1244 operational laboratories (880 government and 364 private). Overall, India has tested 1,37,91,869 samples with 3,58,127 of samples tested on 18th July alone, details here.
ACTIVE CASES IN TOP TEN CITIES/DISTRICT

ADDITIONAL GUIDELINES THIS WEEK

1. WHO interim checklist for local authorities on Practical actions in cities to strengthen preparedness for the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond (link)
2. WHO interim guidance on Strengthening preparedness for COVID-19 in cities and urban settings (link)
3. MoHFW Advisory for Gated Residential Complexes with regards to COVID-19 (link)
4. MoHFW Document on Caring for Health Care Warriors Mental Health Support During COVID-19 (link)

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

In case of any queries on COVID-19, call +91-11-23978046 or 1075 (Toll-free). State Helpline here.
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