HIGHLIGHTS

- Aarogya Setu App developed by Government of India has introduced 'Open API Service' to help the people, businesses and the economy to return to normalcy (Link)
- Three COVID-19 vaccine candidates are in advanced stages of clinical trials (Link)
- Ministry of Home Affairs asks states to allow unhindered movement of persons and goods and services during Unlock-3 (Link)
- Ministry of Information in consultation with MoHFW released the Guiding Principles and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) on preventive measures for Media Production (Link)
- Health Ministry's 'eSanjeevani' telemedicine service records 2 lakh tele-consultations, scaling milestone of 50 000 teleconsultations in 10 days (Link)
- Food grains distributed by the States/UTs to migrants under the Atma Nirbhar Bharat scheme (Link)

WHO Situation Update

India
3 106 348 Confirmed Cases
57 542 Total Deaths

South East Asia Region
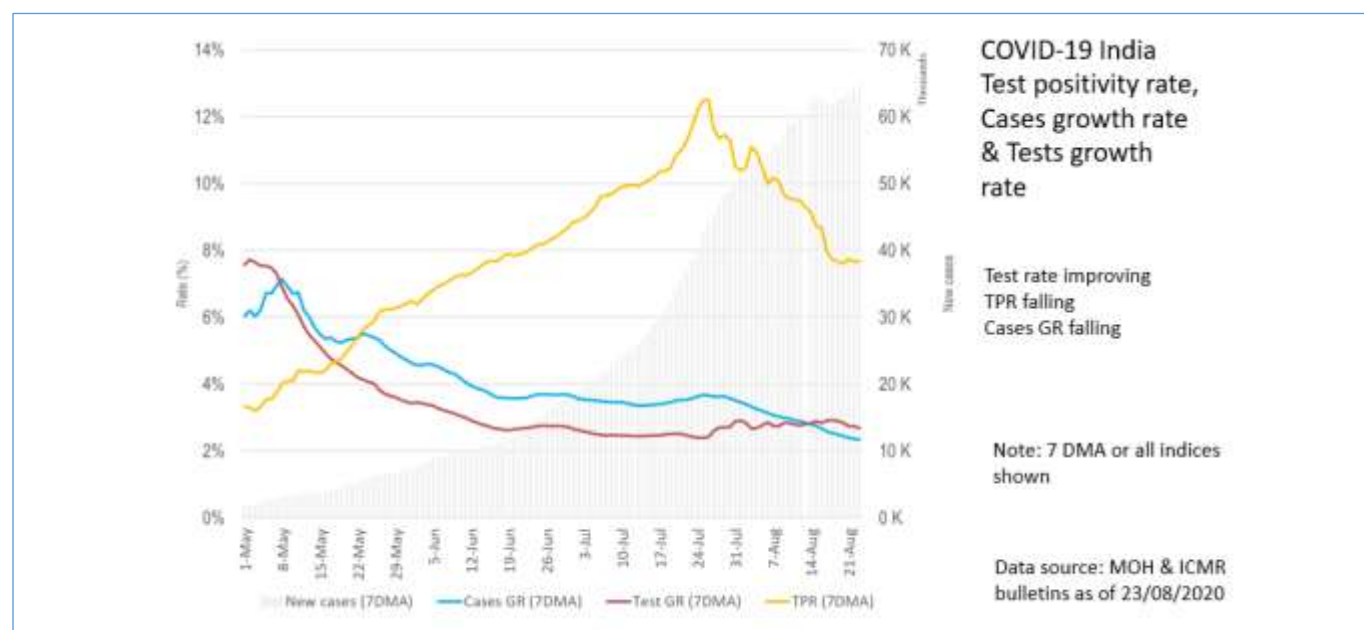**3 602 066 Confirmed Cases**
68 493 Total Deaths

World
23 311 719 Confirmed Cases
806 410 Deaths

INDIA SITUATION

As on 24 August 2020, 08:00 IST there were 710,771 Active Cases 2,338,035 Cured/Discharged, and 57,542 Deaths in India. With 6,09,917 tests conducted in the last 24 hours, India is on its resolved drive to increase its testing capacity, details here.

COVID-19 India
Test positivity rate,
Cases growth rate
& Tests growth
rate

Test rate improving
TPR falling
Cases GR falling

Note: 7 DMA or all indices
shown

Data source: MOH & ICMR
bulletins as of 23/08/2020

New cases (7DMA) — Cases GR (7DMA) — Test GR (7DMA) — TPR (7DMA)

WHO GLOBAL UPDATE

- World Humanitarian Day was observed on 19 August 2020 and recognized #RealLifeHeroes who are fighting COVID-19 among other emergencies and crises around the world, details here.
- WHO has released US$10 million for urgent preparedness and response COVID19 activities globally through the CFE and encourages donors to continue to replenish the CFE to allow WHO to respond to health emergencies in real time, 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) and support SHOC room at the EMR Division and NCDC.
- **Training and Capacity Building:** WCO collaborated with AIIMS and FOGSI to conduct the largest synchronised training for more than 11,500 doctors, nurses and healthcare workers from the private sector across India. More than 20 leading national experts were resource persons for the 3-day certificate program "COVID-19 and RMNCAH".
- **Research and Vaccine Development:**
  - WHO India in partnership with 4 WHO Collaborating Centers have initiated SCOPE (Standardization of COVID-19 and Pregnancy) with 20 participating high-delivery load facilities are in the process of obtaining ethical clearance for data collation using WHO standard norms.
  - A new arm to evaluate the clinical efficacy of Acalabrutinib has been added to the WHO Global Solidarity Trial for therapeutic options for COVID 19. The kinase inhibitor Acalabrutinib which is an FDA-approved drug for chronic lymphocytic leukaemia could relieve cytokine storm that is often accompanied with the treatment of severe COVID-19 in patients
  - WCO India supported finalization of 11 Unity protocols in coordination with premier medical institutes across India. All the 11 protocols have already been technically cleared by WHO research review committees.
- **Risk Communication and Community Engagement:** WCO is engaging with the Youth Foundation to create a network of adolescents and young people to further encourage young people to meaningfully participate in the fight against COVID-19.
  - The first webisode "Manndarshan" a series on mental health has been launched in collaboration with UNDP. The first webinar had about 10,000registrations and had a reach of close to 12,000
- **Laboratory testing:** Overall, India has tested 35,902,137 samples to date with 609,917 samples tested on 16 Aug, reported by ICMR.
  - The whole genome sequences of SARS-CoV2 has revealed that point mutation at site D641G has changed the virus phenotype. However, the impact of this mutation on the disease transmission and severity remain largely unknown. In India around 33% of strains seems to have this mutation.

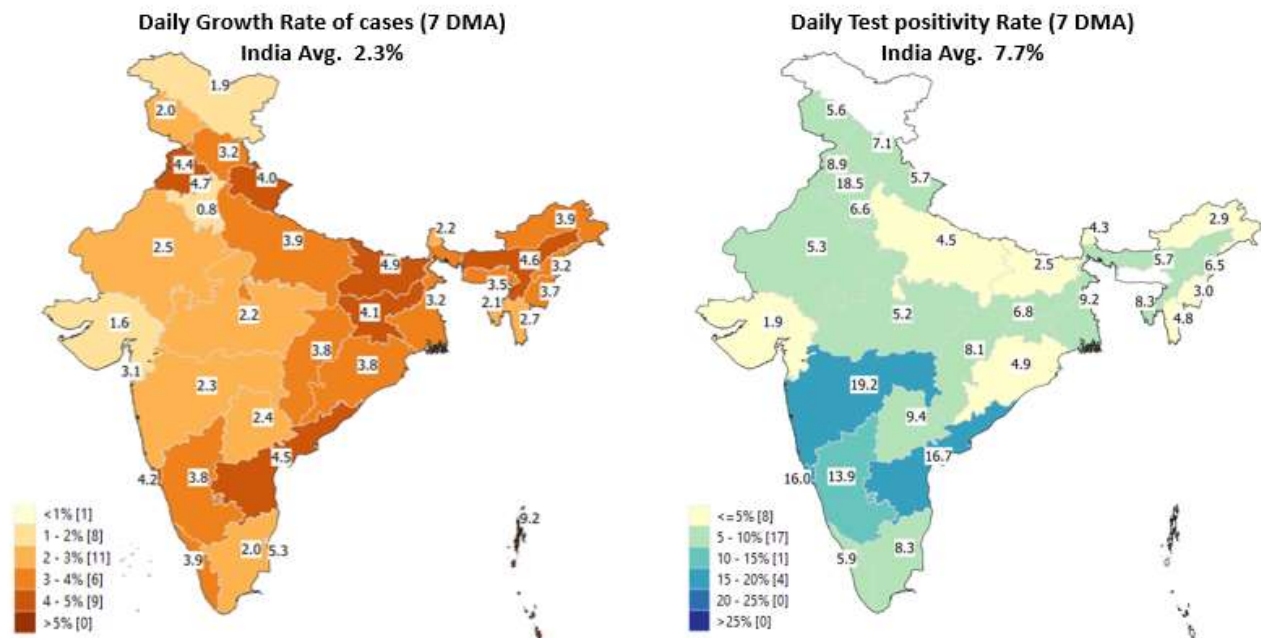– ICMR is in the process ofpublishing the manuscript on lab protocol for detecting SARS- CoV2 in sewage sample.

DAILY GROWTH OF COVID-19 ACROSS INDIA

Daily growth of COVID-19 cases & Daily test positivity rate across Indian States

Daily Growth Rate of cases (7 DMA) India Avg. 2.3%

Daily Test positivity Rate (7 DMA) India Avg. 7.7%

Note: Tests details not available for some states – shown white   Data source: Ministry of Health & Family Welfare and State bulletins, as of 23/08/2020

ADDITIONAL GUIDELINES THIS WEEK

1. WHO is expanding access to online learning for COVID-19 through its open learning platform for health emergencies, OpenWHO.org.
2. MoHFW launched an interactive game and IEC content to promote COVID Appropriate Behaviors (Link)
3. MoHFW published guideline on safe ophthalmology practices in COVID-19 scenario (Link)
4. Education minister launched 'Students' Learning Enhancement Guidelines' to promote equitable access to education during and post pandemic (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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