HIGHLIGHTS

- Union Budget 2021-22 reflects strong focus on health and well-being as Rs 35,000 Crore is allocated for COVID-19 vaccine (Link)
- Union Secretary of Health reviews status of COVID-19 vaccination with States and UTs (Link)
- More than 37 lakh healthcare workers have been vaccinated across the country since the launch of COVID-19 vaccination drive (Link)
- Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare chairs 23rd meeting of Group of Ministers (GOM) on COVID-19 (Link)
- Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare announces that COVISHIELD vaccine will also be supplied to Saudi Arabia (Link)
- Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare asserts that 2021 will be the year where countries have to overcome the challenge of getting COVID vaccines to people across the world who most need it (Link)
- Ministry of Home Affairs issues revised guidelines for surveillance, containment, and caution effective between 1-28 February, 2021 (Link)

INDIA SITUATION

As of 31 January 2021, India reported 10,746,183 confirmed cases. Daily cases in India continue to decline with 13,052 confirmed cases reported on 31st January 2021. Cases per million is 7,670 and a total of 154,274 deaths have been reported, details here.
WHO GLOBAL UPDATE

• FIFA is teaming up with the World Health Organization (WHO) to promote the need for fair access to COVID-19 vaccines, treatments and diagnostics, and to encourage people to keep practicing life-saving, everyday public health measures to prevent the spread of the coronavirus and to protect health., details here.
• WHO SCORE Global Report highlights urgent need for better data to strengthen pandemic response and improve health outcomes, details here.

WHO COUNTRY UPDATE

WHO Country Office for India (WCO) continues to work closely with MoHFW, in responding to COVID-19 and roll out of Covid-19 vaccination at the national, state and district level.
• Coordination: WCO continues to provide technical support to MoHFW through JMG (Joint Monitoring Group) at the national level and through task force/control rooms at the state and district level.
  – WCO personnel continue to be deployed with MoHFW to support SHOC room at NCDC
  – In Karnataka and Kerala, WCO personnel continue to attend periodic review meetings chaired by Health Minister regarding COVID-19 response and vaccination
  – WCO facilitated state task force meeting on National Immunization Day chaired by Principal Secretary – Health in Punjab

• COVID-19 vaccination: WCO is tracking trainings and formation of States and district task forces through a dashboard and providing daily update to MOHFW on progress of vaccination.
  – High level oversight is being provided for vaccination sessions by WHO teams at district and state levels
  – WCO continues to support training of vaccinators and other vaccination team members across India
  – WCO is supporting monitoring of vaccination sessions across the country and continues to provide surge support for training, microplanning and monitoring.
  – 29 field staff from WCO India deployed in North Eastern states to support COVID-19 vaccination roll out
  – WCO (through MOHFW) has supported training of 13 countries in preparation of vaccination

• Risk communication and Community Engagement: WCO has conducted radio programs across 10 States on adopting COVID appropriate behaviors; over 800 shows with a reach of 24 million/week have been completed
  – WCO supported COVID-19 RCCE outreach in 83 slums across 5 states to curb transmission during festival season; over 6 lakh people reached through WaterAid partnership
  – WCO supported development of the film showcasing innovation and self-reliance behind India’s COVID-19 testing success (Link)
  – Celebrities and influencers (Sudarshan Pattnaik, Dutee Chand, Nitibha Kaul) were engaged to amplify WCO’s video on 3Ws through social media

• Essential Services: Efforts to strengthen VPD surveillance and immunization are underway across India
• Laboratory testing: To date, India has tested more than 196,000,000 samples. Tests include both, RTPCR and Rapid Antigen. India’s current test positivity rate (7DMA) is 1.93%. A total of 750,964 tests were done on 31 January 2021, details at ICMR.
COVID-19 VACCINATION DOSES ADMINISTERED

1. MoHFW Extension of validity of Standard Operating Procedure for Epidemiological Surveillance & Response for the new variant of SARS-CoV-2 in the context of regulated resumption of limited flights originating from United Kingdom (UK) to India from 8th January 2021 (LINK)
2. WHO new Essential Diagnostics List and urges countries to prioritize investments in testing (LINK)
3. WHO road map for neglected tropical diseases (NTDs) (LINK)
4. WHO Contact tracing in the context of COVID-19 (LINK)
5. WHO Global report on health data systems and capacity, 2020 (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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