HIGHLIGHTS

- Member, Health, NITI Aayog asserted that herd immunity against COVID-19 must be attained through vaccination and not through infection (Link)
- Distribution of second dose of COVID-19 vaccination started from February 13 for those beneficiaries who have completed 28 days after receipt of the 1st dose (Link)
- India becomes fastest country in the world to reach 70 lakh vaccinations against COVID-19 in only 26 days (Link)
- Union Health Minister distributes woolen blankets, masks, and soaps among those taking shelter in Vishram Sadan, AIIMS, New Delhi (Link)
- Chief Minister, Goa launches month long IEC campaign on COVID-19 vaccination and Atma Nirbhar Bharat (Link)
- Ministry of Railways issues statement clarifying that there is no confirmation yet that full passenger train services will in fact resume from the month of April (Link)

INDIA SITUATION

As of 15th February 2021, India reported 10,916,589 confirmed cases. Daily cases in India continue to decline with 11,649 confirmed cases reported on 15th February 2021. Cases per million is 7,792 and a total of 155,732 deaths have been reported, details here.

WHO Situation Update

India
10 916 589 Confirmed Cases
155 732 Total Deaths

South East Asia Region
13 077 080 Confirmed Cases
200 864 Total Deaths

World
108 487 180 Confirmed Cases
2 394 326 Deaths

Source: WCO COVID-19 Dashboard reported using MoHFW data as on 15 February 2021, 08:00 IST (GMT+5:30)
WHO GLOBAL UPDATE

- WHO listed two versions of the AstraZeneca/Oxford COVID-19 vaccine for emergency use, giving the green light for these vaccines to be rolled out globally through COVAX. The vaccines are produced by AstraZeneca-SKBio (Republic of Korea) and the Serum Institute of India, details here.
- WHO Executive Board stresses need for improved response to mental health impact of public health emergencies, 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 Covid19 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 Tamil Nadu, WCO attended review meetings chaired by Health Minister on COVID-19 response and vaccination
- **COVID-19 vaccination:** WCO is supporting monitoring of vaccination sessions across the country and continues to provide surge support for training, microplanning and monitoring.
  - WCO is tracking trainings and formation review meetings of States and district task forces 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 is supporting counselling sessions targeting vaccine hesitancy amongst healthcare workers
- **Risk Communication and Community Engagement:** WCO released champion videos wherein influencers encouraged citizens to follow the 3Ws i.e., wearing a mask, washing hands regularly with soap, and watching distance. The overall reach of these videos is 3.01 million.
  - Together with ICMR, WCO developed a video capturing India’s efforts in increasing its testing capacity during the pandemic, video here
- **Contact Tracing, Containment and Surveillance:** WCO continues to provide technical support for COVID-19 surveillance and containment activities.
  - WCO provides supportive supervision to monitor contact tracing; identify containment zones and sharing regular feedback with government health officials on regular basis.
  - In Uttar Pradesh, to identify ILI/SARI symptoms, a total of 31,455,506 houses have been covered and 156,590 symptomatic identified with the support of WHO field teams
  - WCO personnel in Maharashtra have been invited to be part of a rapid response team whose purpose is to support response in districts struggling with low testing, high CFR, high case positivity
- **Laboratory testing:** To date, India has tested more than 206,000,000 samples. Tests include both, RTPCR and Rapid Antigen. Most of the large states are ramping RTPCR tests. India’s current test positivity rate (7DMA) is 1.67%. A total of 486,122 tests reported on 15th February 2021, details at ICMR.
COVID-19 VACCINATION ACROSS STATES

More than 85 lakh Beneficiaries Vaccinated

Source: MoHFW Press Release on Day 31 (15.02.2021), available at (LINK)

ADDITIONAL GUIDELINES THIS WEEK

1. MoHFW SOP on preventive measures to contain spread of COVID-19 in offices (LINK)
2. WHO Quality Criteria for Health National Adaptation Plans (LINK)
3. AZD1222 vaccine against COVID-19 by Oxford University and Astra Zeneca: Background paper (LINK)
4. Global COVID-19 Clinical Platform Case Report Form (CRF) for Post COVID condition (LINK)
5. WHO SAGE values framework for the allocation and prioritization of 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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