HIGHLIGHTS

- New phase of COVID-19 vaccination will now take a demand-driven rather than supply driven approach, asserts Chairperson, Empowered Group of COVID-19 vaccination (Link)
- Union Health Minister receives his first dose of COVID-19 vaccine and appeals to all those eligible to take the vaccine and negate any rumors related to it (Link)
- States/UTs urged to utilize 100% capacities of private hospitals functioning as COVID Vaccination Centers (Link)
- Phase 3 Clinical Trial of COVAXIN, developed by ICMR & Bharat Biotech, shows 81% efficacy (Link)
- Maharashtra, Kerala, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, and Karnataka continue to report surge in daily cases (Link)
- Centre rushes high level public health teams to Maharashtra and Punjab to assist in COVID-19 control and containment measures in view of recent surge in cases (Link)
- COVID-19 vaccination drive initiated at Election Commission of India headquarters for its officers and staff (Link)

INDIA SITUATION

- As of 09 March 2021, India reported 11,244,786 confirmed cases. There is slight surge of cases since the past few days. A total of 157,930 deaths have been reported details here.
- Five states, namely, Maharashtra, Kerala, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, and Tamil Nadu are contributing more than 50% of total cases

COVID-19: STATUS ACROSS STATES

Over the last week, 24 out of 36 states and UTs have shown an increase in cases as following:

![Graph showing % change in number of confirmed cases, current week vs. previous week]
- In Maharashtra, lockdown in five districts of Amravati division, and night curfew in Pune has been extended
- In Rajasthan, night curfew has been imposed in 13 districts given the surge in number of cases
- In Tamil Nadu, guidelines on COVID-19 Prevention and Control have been issued by the Directorate of Public Health in light of upcoming assembly elections

**WHO GLOBAL UPDATE**

- On behalf of COVAX Facility, WHO signed an agreement for the administration of no-fault compensation programme for the 92 AMC countries and economies without need to resort to law courts. This is the first and only vaccine injury compensation mechanism operating on an international scale, details [here](#)
- WHO has placed into the public domain the status of COVID-19 vaccines for within WHO EUL/PQ evaluation process. details [here](#)

**WHO COUNTRY UPDATE**

WHO Country Office for India (WCO) works closely with MoHFW, in responding to COVID-19 and roll out of evidence-based interventions including Covid19 vaccination at the national, state and district level.

**Coordination**
- WCO continues to provide technical support to MoHFW, NCDC, ICMR and NDMA at the national level and through task force/control rooms at the state and district level in Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, and Puducherry
- WCO teams contributed to review meetings on covid19 response and vaccination in Karnataka Puducherry, Tripura and Assam
- Participated in COVID-19 review meeting chaired by Health Minister, Mizoram to finalize modifications of entry rules to the state and related SOPs

**COVID-19 vaccination**
- WCO continues to support training/retraining of vaccinators and other vaccination team members
- Assisted trainings regarding COWIN-2.0 launch in Puducherry and Telangana
- Supporting assessment of private hospitals in Kerala to enroll them as COVID-19 vaccination centers
- WCO and UNICEF jointly trained more than 260 NPSP surveillance medical officers on covid-19 vaccination communication. They will be supporting states/UTs and districts in communication for covid-19 vaccination

**Essential Services**
- Efforts to strengthen VPD surveillance and immunization are underway in Chhattisgarh, Puducherry, and Tamil Nadu
- Held MR and AFP surveillance workshops and facilitated review meetings to strengthen immunization in Puducherry and Karnataka
- Supporting Assam, Karnataka, Puducherry, and Tamil Nadu in strengthening and streamlining AEFI surveillance
- Supporting Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, and Telangana in planning and implementation of IMI 3.0
- Supporting Assam, Maharashtra, Puducherry, and Rajasthan in conduction of training program on Integrated Disease Surveillance Program-Integrated Health Information Platform (IDSP-IHIP)
**Intra-Action Review**

- The Government of Uttar Pradesh has embarked on WHO guidance for conducting State COVID-19 Intra-Action Review (IAR) to understand the critical opportunities for learning and improvement to better respond to the COVID-19 outbreak in the State.

**GUIDELINES THIS WEEK**

1. WHO Monitoring COVID-19 vaccination ([LINK](#))
2. WHO draft landscape of observational study designs on the effectiveness of COVID-19 vaccination ([LINK](#))
3. WHO draft landscape and tracker of COVID-19 candidate vaccines ([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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