HIGHLIGHTS

- India’s total Active Caseload has reached 2,19,262 (as on 15 March), comprising 1.93% of the total Positive Cases. The national Recovery Rate is 96.68%. (Link).
- Maharashtra, Punjab, Karnataka, Gujarat, and Tamil Nadu continue to report surge in daily cases (Link).
- Union Health Minister asserts the necessity to maintain COVID appropriate behavior even after vaccine is available (Link).
- Close to 3 crore vaccine doses administered in India as part of the world’s largest vaccination drive (Link).
- India registers a new landmark in COVID-19 vaccination with highest single day vaccination of over 20 lakh doses (Link).
- Center closely monitoring and actively engaging with States/UTs facing surge of COVID-19 cases (Link).
- Member (Health), NITI Aayog announces that Covaxin is now allowed for restricted use in emergency situation in public interest (Link).
- Union Health Minister inaugurates multiple facilities at AIIMS Bhopal (Link).

INDIA SITUATION

- As of 15th March 2021, India reported 26,291 confirmed cases over the past 24 hours and 11,385,339 confirmed cases cumulatively. There is surge of cases since last few days. Cases per million is 8,126 and a total of 158,725 deaths have been reported, details here.
- Among Indian states Maharashtra reported the highest number of cases (more than 2.3 million) followed by Kerala (more than 1 million) and Karnataka (960,272). Five states, namely, Maharashtra, Kerala, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, and Tamil Nadu are contributing more than 53% of total cases.

COVID-19: STATUS ACROSS STATES

In the past week, as compared to previous week, 27 states have shown an increase in cases; however, 9 State have witnessed decrease in cases.
• In Madhya Pradesh, ‘Roko-Toko Abhiyaan’ has been launched to urge people to wear a mask, in line with state issued detailed order for COVID-19 prevention and control
• In Punjab, Chief Secretary has ordered that school teachers eligible for vaccination must be vaccinated as front line workers on priority
• In Rajasthan, instructions have been issued to increase sampling in schools, religious places, railway stations, bus stands, etc.

WHO GLOBAL UPDATE

• ACT-Accelerator releases prioritized strategy and budget for 2021 to change the course of the evolving COVID-19 pandemic, details here
• WHO has listed the COVID-19 vaccine Ad26.COV2.S, developed by Janssen (Johnson & Johnson), for emergency use in all countries and for COVAX roll-out, details here
• COVID-19 Solidarity Response Fund marks first anniversary; it is an innovative platform to enable private companies, individuals and other organizations to contribute directly to WHO’s efforts to prevent, detect, and respond to COVID-19 around the world, details here

WHO COUNTRY UPDATE

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 levels
• Participated in COVID-19 review meeting in Delhi which was attended by Health Secretary, Additional Chief Secretary, and Principal Secretary Health
• Attended meeting chaired by Chief Secretary regarding ramping up COVID-19 vaccination in Karnataka, and continue to regularly attend review meeting regarding COVID-19 response and vaccination, chaired by Health Minister
• Participated in COVID-19 response and vaccination review meetings chaired by Health Secretary in Tamil Nadu

COVID-19 vaccination
• High level oversight during vaccination is provided by WHO teams at district and state levels
• WCO continues to support training/retraining of vaccinators and other vaccination team members
• WCO is supporting monitoring of vaccination sessions across the country and continues to provide surge support for training, microplanning and monitoring
• WCO continues to support assessment of private hospitals in Kerala to enrol them as COVID-19 vaccination centres
• On the request of Principal Secretary Health, WCO personnel in Gujarat prepared concept note to initiate study to assess impact of vaccine

Contact Tracing, Containment and Surveillance
• Country office continues to provide technical support for COVID-19 containment activities in Andhra Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh
  o provide 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 31,515,912 houses have been covered and 161,519 symptomatic identified with the support of WHO field teams.

**Essential Services**

- Efforts to strengthen VPD surveillance and immunization are underway in Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Puducherry, and Tamil Nadu.
- Held MR and AFP surveillance workshops and facilitated review meetings to strengthen immunization in Puducherry.
- Supporting Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, and Punjab in strengthening and streamlining AEFI surveillance.
- Supporting Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, and Telangana in planning and implementation of intensified Mission Indradhanush 3.0.
- Supporting Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Punjab, and Puducherry in conduction of training program on Integrated Disease Surveillance Program-Integrated Health Information Platform (IDSP-IHIP).
- Supporting Puducherry in facilitating lab supported DPT Surveillance.

India’s current test positivity rate (7DMA) is 2.87%. A total of 703,772 tests reported on 15th March 2021.

**Recent Guidelines**

- WHO Living guideline: Drugs to prevent COVID-19 [LINK]
- COVID-19 Strategic Preparedness and Response Plan - Operational Planning Guideline [LINK]
- Monitoring COVID-19 vaccination: Considerations for the collection and use of vaccination data [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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