HIGHLIGHTS

- Centre reviews progress of COVID-19 vaccination with States/UTs (Link)
- Vice President urges medical fraternity to educate people on the safety of COVID-19 vaccine so as to make it a people’s movement (Link)
- Nation’s first mRNA-based vaccine approved for Phase II/III trial by the Drugs Controller General of India DCG(I) (Link)
- Indian Scientist Partners with BRICS group to setup network of genomic surveillance and study the overlap of SARS-CoV-2 with tuberculosis (Link)
- Digital COVID-19 vaccination certificates provided to clinical trial participants of COVISHIELD and COVAXIN through Co-WIN (Link)
- Government to offer special incentives to support 75 start-ups in areas of Telemedicine, Artificial Intelligence, and Digital Health (Link)

INDIA SITUATION

- In the past 24 hours, 25,467 confirmed cases have been reported. In India, highest number of cases in a day were 4,14,188; reported on 7th May 2021. For the last several weeks, daily cases were plateauing around 25-40,000. Cases per million is 22,854.

COVID-19: STATUS ACROSS STATES

- In the past week (18-24 August), as compared to previous week (11-17 August), four states have shown an increase in cases while thirty-one states have shown a decline in cases. Higher decline has been reported from Bihar (-62%), D&N Haveli (-50%), Jharkhand (-40%) and Chhattisgarh (-35%).
In Delhi, RT PCR tests are being conducted on international travelers from Afghanistan.

In Haryana, lockdown has been extended for a period of two weeks, lasting till 6 September.

In Rajasthan, the State is gearing for Panchayat elections in six districts.

WHO GLOBAL UPDATE

- A new WHO paper has been published describing the development of a social listening public health taxonomy for COVID-19. This social listening taxonomy is depicted like a tree. The trunk is the general topic of interest, the branches are more specific categories relevant to that topic, and the twigs of those branches are the sub-categories that have an even narrower focus. This model can be used to navigate the information overload that can occur during an infodemics, details here.

- WHO and Unitaid issued joint statement (on behalf of the Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator) regarding availability of tocilizumab, an IL6 inhibitor recommended by WHO for use as a treatment for severe COVID-19 cases, details here.

- WHO issued an open call for experts to serve as members of the new WHO Scientific Advisory Group for the Origins of Novel Pathogens (SAGO). The SAGO will advise WHO on technical and scientific considerations regarding the origins of emerging and re-emerging pathogens of epidemic and pandemic potential, details here.

- “Health Enabled” with technical guidance and support from WHO, GAVI, The Vaccine Alliance, UNICEF, and Vaccination Demand Hub has developed framework with practical guidance for those seeking to utilize social listening data to strengthen communication strategy, details here.

WHO COUNTRY UPDATE

Coordination

- WCO has been monitoring the trends using predefined indicators and thresholds and sharing the information with officials in States/UTs.
- WCO continues to provide technical support to MoHFW, Empowered Group- 1/NITI Aayog, 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 officials continue to participate in meetings on current response, third wave preparations, vaccination; chaired by Chief Ministers, Health Ministers, Chief and/or Health Secretaries, MDs – NHM, etc of their respective States.

COVID-19 vaccination

- WHO team provides oversight during vaccination at district and state levels.
- WCO is supporting monitoring of vaccination sessions across the country and continues to provide surge support for training, microplanning and monitoring.

Surveillance, Contact Tracing and Containment

- Country office continues to provide technical support for COVID-19 containment activities in Uttar Pradesh.
  - provided supportive supervision to monitor contact tracing, identify containment zones and sharing regular feedback with government health officials on regular basis.
- Supporting house to house survey for ILI/SARI in Uttar Pradesh.

IPC

- Continuing to support capacity building of healthcare workers regarding IPC in Delhi.
Essential Services

- Efforts to strengthen VPD surveillance and immunization are underway in Delhi
- Supporting Delhi in strengthening and streamlining AEFI surveillance, and fever & rash surveillance
- Supporting Polio vaccination of international travelers from Afghanistan in Delhi

As of 24 August, India has tested more than 496 million samples. Tests include both, RTPCR and Rapid Antigen. India’s current test positivity rate (7DMA) is 1.9%.

India continued to drive COVID-19 vaccinations among various age group with preconditions, details [here](#).

Cumulative Coverage Report of COVID-19 vaccination (as on 25 August 2021, 07:00 AM)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Beneficiaries vaccinated</th>
<th>1st Dose</th>
<th>2nd Dose</th>
<th>Total Doses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st Dose</td>
<td>46,08,02,783</td>
<td>13,47,01,810</td>
<td>59,55,04,593</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>in last 24 Hours</td>
<td>44,09,540</td>
<td>17,81,390</td>
<td>61,90,930</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

IMPORTANT GUIDELINES/TECHNICAL PUBLICATIONS

CLICK HERE to access latest publications from WHO

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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