HIGHLIGHTS

- More than 1.6 million healthcare workers have been vaccinated across the country since the launch of COVID-19 vaccination drive (Link)
- Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare unveils IEC campaign to address vaccine hesitancy and misinformation (Link)
- PM interacts with beneficiaries and vaccinators of COVID-19 vaccination drive in Varanasi (Link)
- COVID-19 vaccination drive commences in Andaman & Nicobar Command (Link)
- Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare rushes multi-disciplinary team to assist Lakshadweep administration in COVID-19 management (Link)
- Union Minister of Home Affairs honored Corona warriors of Delhi Police and presented ranks to policemen who were promoted out of turn in recognition of their outstanding work (Link)
- Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare asserts that 2020 was the Year of Science and Scientists in reference to ICMR's performance on containing COVID-19 (Link)

INDIA SITUATION

As of 25 January 2021, India reported 10,667,736 confirmed cases. Daily cases in India continue to decline with 13,203 confirmed cases reported on 25 January 2021. In the past 7 days, India reported 95,963 confirmed cases. Cases per million is 7,614 and a total of 153,470 deaths have been reported, details here.

WHO Situation Update

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Confirmed Cases</th>
<th>Deaths</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>India</td>
<td>10 667 736</td>
<td>153 470</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South East Asia Region</td>
<td>12 683 853</td>
<td>194 801</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>World</td>
<td>98 794 942</td>
<td>2 124 193</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: MoHFW data
WHO GLOBAL UPDATE

- Statement to the 148th Executive Board by the Chair of the Review Committee on the Functioning of the International Health Regulations (2005) during the COVID-19 Response, details [here](#).
- COVAX announced the signing of an advance purchase agreement for up to 40 million doses of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine; rollout to commence with successful execution of supply agreements. Additionally, COVAX announced that, pending WHO emergency use listings, nearly 150 million doses of the AstraZeneca/Oxford candidate are anticipated to be available in Q1 2021, via existing agreements with the Serum Institute of India (SII) and AstraZeneca, 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.
  - In Gujarat, Chief Minister released the first state-level Intra-Action Review (IAR) report on COVID-19 response in India as per WHO guidelines.
- **COVID19 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 during vaccination is being provided by WHO teams levels
  - WCO continues to support training 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.
  - 29 field staff from WCO India have been deployed to North Eastern states to support COVID-19 vaccination preparedness and in rolling out the vaccination
  - WCO in partnership with UNICEF in Tamil Nadu is planning physical assessment of cold chain points across the state
- **Risk communication and Community Engagement:** WCO engaged celebrities to amplify 3Ws (wear your mask, wash your hands and watch your distance) video on social media.
- **Contact Tracing, Containment and Surveillance:** Country office continues to provide technical support for COVID-19 containment activities in all States/UTs
  - WCO continues to 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 31,358,752 houses have been covered and 152,057 symptomatic identified with the support of WHO field teams
- **Research activities:** WCO is monitoring progress of 11 WHO Unity studies being conducted across India- study to understand risk of COVID-19 transmission among health care workers and household contacts
- **Laboratory testing:** To date, India has tested more than 192,000,000 samples. Tests includes both, RTPCR and Rapid Antigen. India’s current test positivity rate (7DMA) is 1.84%. A total of 570,246 tests were done on 25 January 2021, details at [ICMR](#).
COVID-19 VACCINATION DOSES ADMINISTERED

![Chart showing COVID-19 vaccination doses administered globally and by country.](Source: Official data collated by Our World in Data – Last updated 26 January, 08:10 (London time)]

ADDITIONAL GUIDELINES THIS WEEK

1. MoHFW Letter regarding Contraindications and Factsheet for COVID-19 vaccines ([LINK](#))
2. WHO manual for organizing a national external quality assessment programme for health laboratories and other testing sites ([LINK](#))
3. WHO mRNA-1273 vaccine (Moderna) against COVID-19 Background document ([LINK](#))
5. WHO Guidance for Communities of Faith to help them discern how best to practice their beliefs while keeping their staff and congregations safe  ([LINK](#))

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

In case of any queries on COVID-19, call +91-11-23978046 or 1075 (Toll-free). State Helpline [here](#).  
WHO Country Office for India | Telephone number: [91-11-66564800](tel:+91-11-66564800) | Email: [wrindia@who.int](mailto:wrindia@who.int)
HIGHLIGHTS

- India began World’s Largest Vaccination Drive on 16 January 2021 as sanitation worker becomes first recipient of the vaccine at AIIMS, New Delhi (Link)
- Union Health Minister interacts with the Health Ministers of States/UTs to review the first day of COVID-19 vaccine launch (Link)
- India becomes the number one country to vaccinate the highest number of persons on day one of nationwide vaccine launch (Link)
- Prime Minister assures that India is guided by human-centric approach in its vaccination campaign and those who need the vaccine the most will get it first (Link)
- Prime Minister asserts that Made-in-India vaccines have been approved for emergency use only after the scientists and experts were fully convinced about their safety and efficacy (Link)
- Prime Minister states that India is expressing its gratitude to frontline Corona warriors by giving them priority in vaccination (Link)

INDIA SITUATION

As of 17 January 2021, India reported 10,571,773 confirmed cases. Daily cases in India continue to decline with 13,788 confirmed cases reported on 17th January 2021. Cases per million is 7,546 and a total of 152,419 deaths have been reported, details here.

WHO Situation Update

- India
  - 10 571 773 Confirmed Cases
  - 152 419 Total Deaths
- South East Asia Region
  - 12 462 338 Confirmed Cases
  - 191 196 Total Deaths
- World
  - 93 217 287 Confirmed Cases
  - 2 014 957 Deaths

Source: MoHFW as reported on the WHO India Country Office Dashboard
WHO GLOBAL UPDATE

- WHO Emergency Committee on COVID-19 advised on variants, vaccines, details here.
- More than 2,800 scientists from 130 countries gathered on Friday (January 15) in a virtual forum hosted by the World Health Organization (WHO) to identify knowledge gaps and set research priorities for vaccines against SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, 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.
- **Launch of COVID19 vaccination:** COVID-19 vaccination drive was launched on Saturday, 16 January 2021 by the Prime Minister; 3352 sessions held, and more than 200,000 beneficiaries vaccinated across the country with a coverage of 60-70% of the target achieved in first three days.
  - Vaccination drives were launched across all states except Kerala and Lakshadweep
  - WCO is tracking trainings in states through our dashboard and providing daily update to MOHFW
  - High level oversight during vaccination is provided by WHO teams at district and state levels
  - WCO has supported training of more than 260,000 vaccinators and 475,000 other vaccination team members
  - WCO supported monitoring of more than 1500 COVID-19 vaccination sessions across the country and continues to provide surge support for training, microplanning and monitoring.
  - 29 WHO medical officers deployed in North Eastern states are supporting COVID-19 vaccination preparedness and roll out
  - WCO is Supporting Chandigarh, Chhattisgarh, Delhi, Maharashtra, Karnataka, and Puducherry in updating the AEFI committees and providing technical support to the same
  - WCO is also supporting (through MOHFW) training of neighboring countries in preparation of vaccination

- **Leadership and coordination:** WCO personnel continue to be deployed with MoHFW to support SHOC room at NCDC. 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 in Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, and Puducherry.

- **Laboratory testing:** To date, India has tested more than 187,000,000 samples. Tests includes both, RTPCR and Rapid Antigen. India’s current test positivity rate (7DMA) is 2.01%.
  - WHO supported ICMR and SCOPE (pregnancy) study centers with 250,000 RT-PCR kits to support ongoing research.
  - A total of 548,168 tests were done on 17 January 2021, details ICMR.
SUB-NATIONAL BURDEN OF COVID-19 ACROSS INDIA

Top 20 districts with COVID burden

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District</th>
<th>Cases</th>
<th>Active Cases</th>
<th>Deaths</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Delhi</td>
<td>632,183</td>
<td>15,887</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bengaluru</td>
<td>394,495</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pune</td>
<td>301,661</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mumbai</td>
<td>302,226</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thane</td>
<td>204,089</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chennai</td>
<td>228,911</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nagpur</td>
<td>131,780</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kolkata</td>
<td>124,571</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East</td>
<td>124,955</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North 24</td>
<td>120,228</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Navi Mumbai</td>
<td>118,825</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Malappur</td>
<td>98,350</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Ernakulam</td>
<td>95,422</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Kozhikode</td>
<td>95,193</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kollam</td>
<td>94,092</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thrissur</td>
<td>87,042</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chittoor</td>
<td>86,733</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Thrissur</td>
<td>81,731</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lucknow</td>
<td>80,601</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guwahati</td>
<td>75,263</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Delhi included for comparison  Data Source: MOHFW & State’s bulletins, as of 17/01/2021*

ADDITIONAL GUIDELINES THIS WEEK

1. Investigation of novel SARS-CoV-2 variant: Variant of Concern 202012/01: Technical briefing document on novel SARS-CoV-2 variant (LINK)
2. WHO Guidelines on Coronavirus disease (COVID-19): Schools including checklist to support schools reopening and preparation for COVID-19 resurgences or similar public health crises (LINK)

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

In case of any queries on COVID-19, call +91-11-23978046 or 1075 (Toll-free). State Helpline here. WHO Country Office for India I Telephone number: +91-11- 66564800 I Email: wrindia@who.int
**HIGHLIGHTS**

- Union Health Secretary assures that Government of India will proactively help countries who may want to use CO-WIN Vaccination Management System ([Link](#))
- Mock drill on COVID-19 vaccine administration conducted in all States and UTs on 8 January 2021 ([Link](#))
- Centre rushes high level team to Kerala to support the State in public health interventions in COVID-19 management given recent surge in cases ([Link](#))
- Union Minister of Health requests all State Health Ministers to personally keep tab on disinformation regarding the approved vaccines so as to avoid derailment of the vaccination exercise ([Link](#))
- Union Health Secretary urges Maharashtra, Kerala, Chhattisgarh, and West Bengal to take prompt steps and to keep a ‘strict vigil’ to curb recent spike in COVID cases ([Link](#))
- The Government of Japan has committed Official Development Assistance loan of approx. Rs. 2000 crores to support India's efforts at providing social assistance to the poor and vulnerable households, severely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic ([Link](#))
- Prime Minister reviews status of COVID-19 and preparedness for COVID-19 vaccination ([Link](#))
- Centre guides States/UTs on Co-WIN management as India gears up for COVID-19 vaccine roll out ([Link](#))

**INDIA SITUATION**

As on 10 January 2021, India reported 10,466,595 confirmed cases. Daily cases in India continue to decline with 16,504 confirmed cases reported on 11th January 2021. Cases per million is 7,471 and a total of 151,160 deaths have been reported, details [here](#).

![% change in number of confirmed cases. current week vs. previous week](#)

Source: MoHFW as reported on the WHO India Country Office Dashboard
WHO GLOBAL UPDATE

- Global scientists double down on SARS-CoV-2 variants research at WHO-hosted forum, details here.
- UNICEF, WHO, IFRC and MSF announce the establishment of a global Ebola vaccine stockpile, details here.
- WHO publishes a series of case studies on the implementation of the Chemicals Road Map, details here.

WHO COUNTRY UPDATE

WHO Country Office for India (WCO) continues to work closely with MoHFW, in responding to COVID-19 and preparations for 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.
- **Readiness for COVID-19 vaccination:** WCO is supporting MOHFW and states in preparation and roll out of COVID19 vaccination.
  - GOI announced that COVID vaccination will be launched on 16 Jan 2021. WCO is providing strategic technical support to MOHFW and states in preparation and roll out of COVID19 vaccination
  - WCO is tracking trainings in states through our dashboard and providing daily update to MOHFW
  - WCO teams in states have supported COVID vaccination dry run in Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Chandigarh UT, Chhattisgarh, Delhi, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Karnataka, Kerala, Manipur, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Odisha, Puducherry, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, and West Bengal
  - WCO is supporting Chhattisgarh in drafting state specific policy regarding biomedical waste management at vaccination session site
  - On the request of MOHFW, WCO is deploying 29 medical officers to North East states from 12 Jan to support COVID vaccination preparedness assessment, support in addressing gaps and in rolling out the vaccination.
- **Leadership and coordination:** WCO personnel continue to be deployed with MoHFW to support SHOC room at NCDC. WCO also participated in review meeting chaired by Health Minister, Karnataka regarding COVID-19 response and vaccination.
- **Risk communication and Community Engagement:** WCO is supporting radio campaign on COVID appropriate behaviors
  - WCO is working with IIPH, Gandhinagar and IIM, Ahmedabad in Gujarat on the state’s Intra - Action Review (IAR)
- **Laboratory testing:** To date, India has tested more than 181,000,000 samples. Tests includes both, RTPCR and Rapid Antigen. India’s current test positivity rate (7DMA) is 2.08%. A total of 659,209 tests were done on 10 January 2021, details ICMR.
SUB-NATIONAL BURDEN OF COVID-19 ACROSS INDIA

Top 20 districts with COVID burden

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cases</th>
<th>Active Cases</th>
<th>Deaths</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Delhi</td>
<td>629,001</td>
<td>10,655</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bengaluru</td>
<td>392,128</td>
<td>8,768</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pune</td>
<td>377,904</td>
<td>7,680</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mumbai</td>
<td>298,235</td>
<td>6,979</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thane</td>
<td>261,425</td>
<td>5,876</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chennai</td>
<td>227,575</td>
<td>5,609</td>
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<td>Newspapers</td>
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<td>Kolkata</td>
<td>125,297</td>
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<td>East...</td>
<td>123,913</td>
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<td>North 24...</td>
<td>118,788</td>
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<td>NaviMumbai</td>
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<td>Malappur...</td>
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<td>West...</td>
<td>94,049</td>
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<td>Kochi</td>
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<td>Erode</td>
<td>90,014</td>
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<td>Chittoor</td>
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<td>Thrissur</td>
<td>84,823</td>
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<td>Vadodara</td>
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<td>Malappur...</td>
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<td>Alappuzha</td>
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<td>Idikki</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thiruvananthapuram</td>
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<td>Wayanad</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kannur</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*Delhi included for comparison  Data Source: MOHFW & State’s bulletins, as of 10/01/2021

ADDITIONAL GUIDELINES THIS WEEK

1. MoHFW Letter on COVID-19 Vaccination ([LINK](#))
2. WHO Infection prevention and control (IPC) principles and procedures for COVID-19 vaccination activities ([LINK](#))

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

In case of any queries on COVID-19, call +91-11-23978046 or 1075 (Toll-free). State Helpline [here](#), WHO Country Office for India | Telephone number: +91-11-66564800 | Email: wrindia@who.int
HIGHLIGHTS

- Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India asserts that vaccines which are in the pipeline will work against the new variants of SARS-CoV-2 (Link)
- Consortium of 10 government labs release initial results of Genome sequencing of mutant variant of SARS-CoV-2 (Link)
- Health Ministry recommends extension of temporary suspension of international flights from the UK to India till 7 Jan 2021 (Link)
- Centre asks States/UTs to gear up for roll out of COVID-19 vaccine (Link)
- Union Health Minister chairs meeting to review preparedness at COVID-19 vaccination sites for trial run in Delhi and emphasizes need for effective collaboration between administration and medical officers (Link)
- COVID-19 vaccine dry run held successfully across India (Link)
- Union Home Minister hailed approval granted by the Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) to the COVID-19 vaccines of the Serum Institute of India (SII) and Bharat Biotech (Link)

INDIA SITUATION

As of 4 January 2021, India reported 10,340,469 confirmed cases. After a slight increase in daily cases in the past few days, a recent decline has again been witnessed. After 2nd July 2020, daily cases reported currently is less than twenty thousand. 16,504 confirmed cases reported on 3rd January 2021. Cases per million is 7,381. Total deaths reported 149,649, details here.

Source: MoHFW as reported on the WHO India Country Office Dashboard
WHO GLOBAL UPDATE

- WHO Director-General’s opening remarks at the media briefing on COVID-19 – 5 January 2021, details here.
  - Following the Emergency Use Listing last week, the SAGE group met today to discuss policy recommendations for the use of the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine.
  - Over the past 24 hours, members of the international scientific team on COVID-19 virus origins began traveling from their home countries to China. WHO is eager to get the mission underway as soon as possible.

WHO COUNTRY UPDATE

WHO Country Office for India (WCO) continues to work closely with MoHFW, in responding to COVID-19 and preparation 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

- **Readiness for COVID19 vaccination:** WCO is supporting MOHFW and states in preparation and roll out of COVID19 vaccination.
  - WCO teams in states are supporting COVID vaccination dry run in Andhra Pradesh, Chandigarh UT, Chhattisgarh, Delhi, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, and Punjab
  - WCO supported MOHFW in for tracking trainings in states
  - WCO is modifying the AEFI capturing software SafeVac to directly capture any adverse events following COVID vaccination with Covid Vaccine Intelligence Network (CoWIN) for managing adverse events following covid19 vaccination
  - WCO is supporting in setting up communications war room at MOHFW and have deployed one technical officer
  - WCO is facilitating ToT roll out of COVID vaccination in Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Chandigarh UT, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Karnataka, Odisha, Puducherry, Punjab, Tamil Nadu
  - WCO field personnel provided strategic technical support in Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Chandigarh UT, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Karnataka, Odisha, Puducherry, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh for preparing for COVID-19 vaccination
  - WCO is supporting State and District Task Force for Immunization for COVID-19 in Delhi, Kerala, Rajasthan, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, and Tripura

- **Laboratory testing:** To date, India has tested more than 175,000,000 samples. This includes both, RTPCR and Rapid Antigen. India’s current test positivity rate (7DMA) is 1.97%. A total of 735,798 tests were done on 3 January 2021, details ICMR.
SUMMARY OF COVID-19 SUPPORT IN 2020

Recap: COVID preparedness, response and health system capacity building


EQA5: External Quality Assessment Scheme

ADDITIONAL GUIDELINES THIS WEEK


FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT


WHO Country Office for India I Telephone number: +91-11- 66564800 | Email: wrindia@who.int