

**Major Events & Achievements
(September, 2020)**

1. COVID-19 Pandemic:

1.1. Two meetings of National Expert Group on Vaccine Administration for COVID-19 (NEGVAC) were held on 12th September 2020 and 22nd September 2020, under the chairpersonship of Dr. V. K. Paul, Member (Health), NITI Aayog and Co-Chaired by Secretary (H&FW).

1.2. A meeting was taken by Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog on 16th September 2020 to explore various options to vaccinate the entire population of the country at speed and scale where MoHFW presented the progress made on various parameters.

1.3. A dedicated hospital block for treatment of COVID-19 patients started at AIIMS Bathinda.

1.4. The CGHS beneficiaries getting medicines for Chronic diseases have now been permitted to purchase medicines based on the prescription held (prescribed by CGHS Medical Officers/ CGHS Specialists/ other Government Specialists/ Specialists of empanelled hospital) till 31st December, 2020. The terms & conditions have been prescribed vide OM dated 27.03.2020. All CGHS Wellness Centres are now fully functional and CGHS beneficiaries also have the option to collect medicines through CGHS Wellness Centres as per normal practice, instead of purchasing from market.

2. Legislative measures and regulation:

2.1. The second All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in Bihar was approved by Cabinet on 15.08.2020 at an approved outlay of Rs.1264 crore. The institute will be constructed at the campus of the Darbhanga Medical College in the State and will have a modern 750 bedded hospital.

2.2. The Pre-conception and Pre-natal Diagnostic Techniques (Prohibition of Sex Selection) (Six Months Training) Amendment Rules, 2020 were laid on the table of Lok Sabha on 18.09.2020 and Rajya Sabha on 20.09.2020.

3. Miscellaneous:

3.1. OPD services at AIIMS Bibinagar (Hyderabad) in Telangana have been started on 01.09.2020.

3.2. The first meeting of the Joint Working Group (JWG) between North Eastern Council (NEC), Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (MoDoNER) and National AIDS Control Organisation (NACO), Ministry of Health & Family Welfare was held on a virtual

platform under the chairmanship of Secretary, NEC on 7th September 2020. The meeting was organized to garner support from NEC and deliberate the modalities to implement activities as agreed in MoU signed between NACO and NEC in mutual collaboration and support.

4. Minimum Government, Maximum Governance:

4.1. Community-based HIV screening approaches have been included in the National AIDS. Community-based screening (CBS) is an important approach for improving early diagnosis, reaching first-time testers and people who seldom use clinical services, including men and adolescents in high-prevalence settings and High Risk Group populations.

4.2. Multi Month Dispensation of ARV drugs is currently being provided to those PLHIV who are eligible for it. The initiative has resulted in a decrease in the daily OPD patient load at the ART centers and has enabled the ART staff to give enough time to priority patients.

4.3. In the National Toll Free AIDS Helpline 1097, an online Grievance redressal platform has been developed for addressing the complaints and grievances from PLHIV. The action taken is reported to the complainant via outbound calls to close the grievance.
