All Hands, One Fight: Managing Covid-19 in India

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Challenges Posed by the Covid-19 Pandemic

Demographics & Health Profile

- **Population:** >1.4 Billion
- **Population Density:** 479 per sq. km
- **Geographical diversity**
  - Mountain ranges (Himalayas, Aravalli, Nilgiris)
  - Coastal Areas (more than 4600 miles)
  - Islands (1200+)

- **28 States & 8 Union Territories** with federated health system

- **200,000+ Government-owned** Health facilities
- **100,000+ Private** health facilities

Challenges faced in various surges due to Covid-19

1st surge	• Limited knowledge of pathogen, & medical countermeasures • Limited Testing capacity & available health infrastructure • Limited Indigenous manufacturing capacity (PPEs, N95, etc.) • Lack of institutional real-time surveillance mechanism
2nd surge	• New challenges posed by Variants & evolving Clinical Management Protocols • Need for Oxygen & Drugs (Tocilizumab, Remdisivir, Amphotericin-B) & their equitable distribution • Need for upscaling critical care health infrastructure, particularly in rural areas
3rd surge	• New Variant - High transmissibility & possible Vaccine Escape • Need for strengthening Surveillance including Genome Sequencing

Managing Misinformation & Infodemics

All Hands, One Fight: led by strong Political Will



- **Strategic & Policy Level Leadership by Hon'ble PM for effective monitoring & oversight.**
- **Regular engagement with Chief Ministers & State Health Ministers**
- ***'Jan-Andolan'* & *'Jan-Bhagidari'*** for enhanced community participation
- Promoted ***Make-in-India & Make-for-World*** **in Diagnostics, Drugs & Vaccines**
- **Timely & prompt decisions** to **save precious lives,** while **providing solace to common man.**
- **Hon'ble PM addressed nation** through **Media and specifically through radio on 'Mann ki Baat'** stressing on usage of mask, social distancing, vaccination etc

Robust Institutional Framework

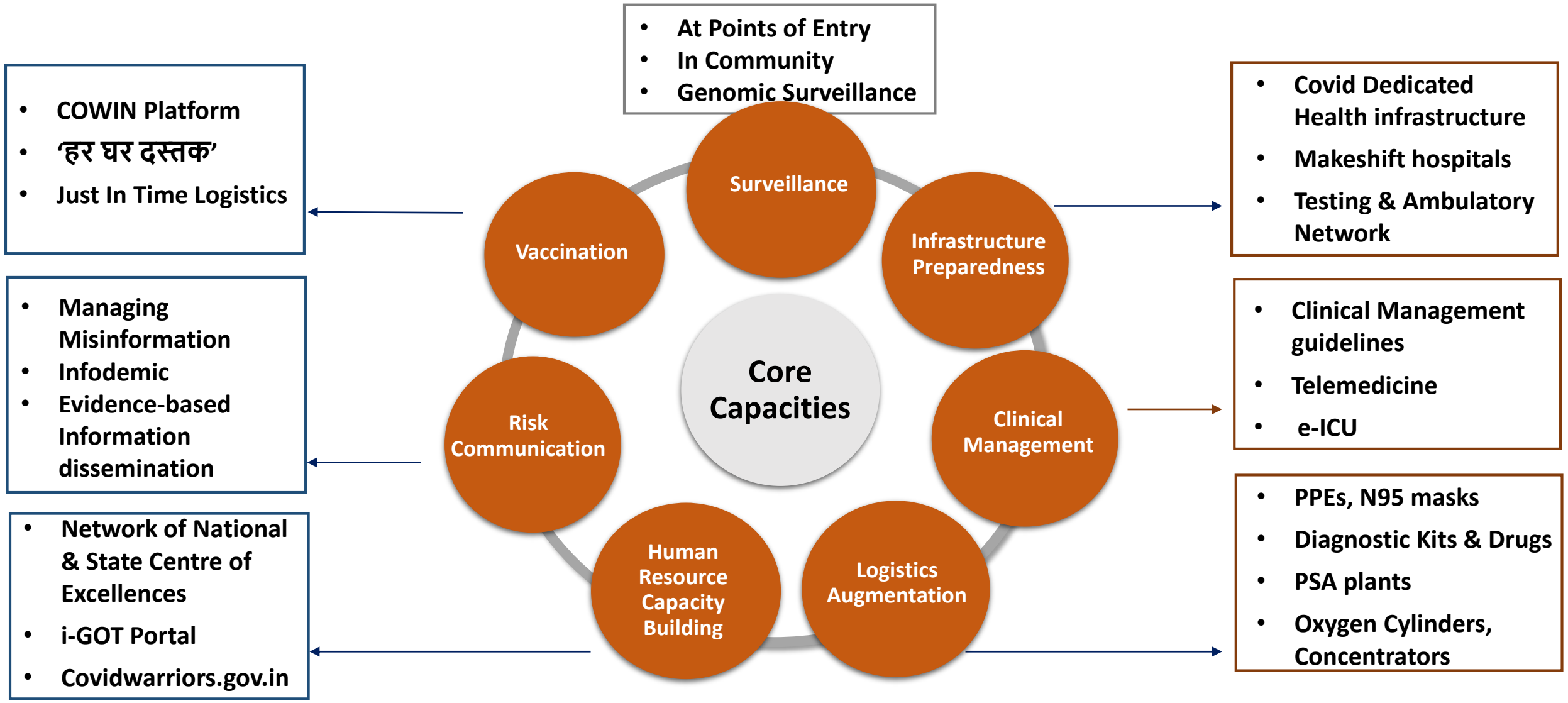
- **Hon'ble PM chaired 77 meetings**
- **These included State Meetings, Expert Committee Meetings**

- **Group of Ministers for** guidance to **multiple stakeholder Ministries**
- **Regular State reviews & visits of Central Teams to field**

- **Committee of Secretaries** coordinated with **States & all departments** in Government of India
- **180+ technical advisories** issued

- **Empowered Groups (EGs) headed by Secretaries to expedite decision making (power of Cabinet for decisions by the EGs)**

Focus on Strengthening IHR Core capacities in collaboration with States



Three-Pronged Surveillance Strategy for Early identification



Early Screening & Surveillance

- **Point of Entry Screening at land borders, seaports and airports**
- **Early screening & isolation of travelers** started before the 1st case was detected in India
- **Isolation Wards set up** at major ports
- **Health Risk Profiling & Quarantine** as per protocol



Effective Containment Measures

- **Containment Guidelines** for **clusters & large outbreaks issued**
- **Primary & Secondary Contacts Tracing** with focus on **comorbid patients & elderly**
- Teams oriented for **door-to-door sample collection** in Containment Zones
- **Setting up of Fever clinics, mapping of Quarantine centers for isolation of high-risk contacts & Hospitals for treatment**
- **Leveraging Aarogya Setu and ITIHAS portal** for identification of emerging hotspots
- **Network of National, State & District level Call Centers stablished** for monitoring of cases under **Home Isolation**



Monitoring of New Variants

- **Indian SARS-CoV-2 Genomic Consortia (INSACOG)** set up to monitor genomic variations. The network comprises of **67 laboratories**
- **National Sero-Prevalence** Surveys conducted to measure antibodies in community
- **Sewage** surveillance for detection of virus in community

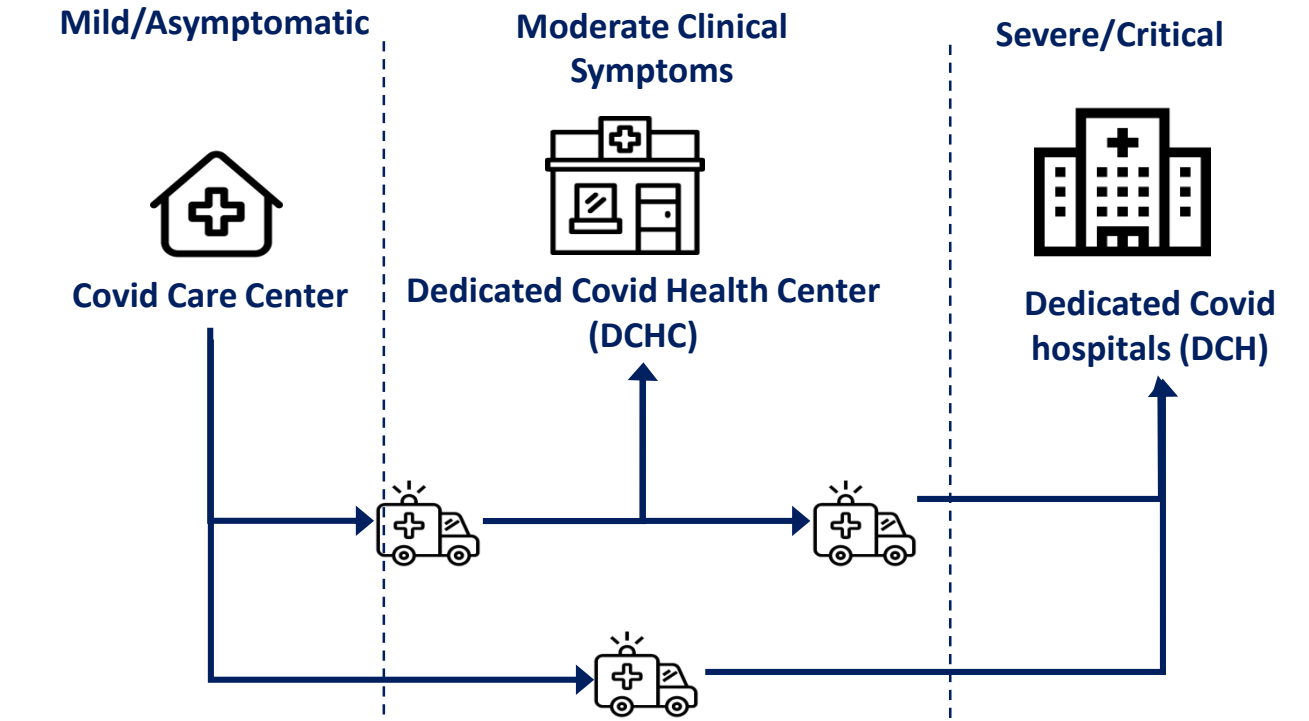
Infrastructure Preparedness

Network of Covid Dedicated Health Facilities

- Infrastructure augmentation supported by **district level projection tools**

	March 2020	April 2022
Isolation Beds	10,180	185.4 million
ICU Beds	2,168	68,000
Ventilators	2,081	67,158

- **Makeshift hospitals** in areas with **limited infrastructure**
- Hospitals under **Central Ministries/PSUs utilized for Covid-19 management**
- **Railway Coaches** for management of mild cases
- **Dedicated Ambulance Network** of **BLS & ALS ambulances**
- **A network of 3,200 Testing labs created feeding data to ICMR portal**



Clinical Management

Clinical Management Protocols

- **Various guidelines on Clinical Management of Covid-19 issued and disseminated such as**
  - **Clinical Guidance for Management of Adult Covid-19 Patients**
  - **Management of COVID-19 in Children and Adolescents**
  - **Guidelines for Home Quarantine**
  - **Covid-19 Testing Strategy etc.**
- These guidelines were then regularly updated based on emerging evidences.

ESanjeevani



- **World's largest telemedicine platform** providing **free of cost teleconsultations** to citizens from the confines of their homes.
- Utilized for **Remote Monitoring of patients under Home Isolation**

Over 429 million Consultations conducted

~27,000 Specialist Doctors catering to 136,360 telemedicine hubs. Nearly 1.81 lakh Ayushman Arogya Mandir served.

~400,000 free-of-cost Consultations per day

$11.41 in direct & indirect cost saved per health visit ($2.4 billion of overall savings)

Managing Misinformation in Community



Providing factually accurate information	Removal of Fear & Stigma	Tackling Misinformation	Publicizing importance of vaccination	Addressing vaccine hesitancy & managing vaccine eagerness
• **Regularly providing COVID-19 situation updates** • Wide **dissemination of authenticated protocols**.	• Addressing fear through **coverage of positive stories** to **boost morale** of frontline and healthcare workers and **building confidence** of community.	• **Busting myths and rumors** • Devising a **comprehensive risk communication strategy** leveraging **multiple media channels**.	• **Publicizing importance of vaccination** through **media programs such as Vaccine Vaarta** to boost the rate of vaccine administration.	• Continued focus on **addressing the challenge of vaccine hesitancy, especially in rural areas** • Emphasis on **managing vaccine eagerness**

Jan Bhagidari se Jan Andolan – Community participation

Leveraged Caller Tune messages
1.17 billion subscribers in 13 Languages

SMSs in Regional languages

Daily Press Briefings
For proper dissemination of information

24x7 National Control Room
To proactively analyze emerging challenges district-wise

Myth Busters
for de-stigmatization of Covid-19 & vaccination program

Community Initiatives – Jan Bhagidari and Jan Andolan



The entire nation participated in the **'Taali Bajao, Thaali Bajao'** campaign on **22nd March 2020** to applaud those fighting the virus at the forefront.



Citizens were urged to **Light Lamps** in their houses on **5th April 2020** to show solidarity in combating COVID-19.



On **3rd May 2020**, the **Indian Air Force showered flowers on Frontline Workers** as a show of gratitude towards their relentless efforts.

India's Pandemic Response & Vaccination Efforts lauded globally

The country representative of the World Health Organization (WHO) Dr. Roderico Ofrin said **"The access, affordability and the speed with you get the result of the test, communicating and engaging with the community** to be able to do Covid-19 appropriate behaviors- it was all **on the call of Prime Minister, the Jan Andolan."**

***Source**: NDTV, 12th Feb, 2021*

U.N. Chief Antonio Guterres said, "Indeed, **India has been a global leader in pandemic response efforts having provided critical medicines, diagnostic kits, ventilators and personal protective equipment to more than 150 countries.** I also appreciate your continued efforts to support and strengthen the COVAX Facility to ensure more equitable access."

***Source**: Economic Times, 21st Feb, 2021*

World Economic Forum (WEF) president Borge Brende has lauded the **Modi government's "agile" response to the Covid-19 pandemic.** He said, "India was the first country to feel the impact of the virulent Delta variant but quickly **swung into action to ensure that as many people as possible were vaccinated."**

***Source**: Times of India, 10th Nov, 2021*

International Monetary Fund (IMF) commended Indian authorities' **"swift and substantial" response** and said, "Directors commended the authorities' response to the pandemic which includes **scaled-up support to vulnerable groups, monetary policy easing and liquidity provision, accommodative financial sector and regulatory policies, and continued structural reforms."**

***Source**: Times of India, **Date**: 22nd Oct, 2021*

India appreciated by global leaders for effective Covid-19 Management

Bill Gates
@BillGates

India has administered 1 billion vaccine doses, a testament to India's innovation, ability to manufacture at scale, and the efforts of millions of health workers backed by CoWIN. Congratulations @narendramodi @mansukhmandviya @PMOIndia @MoHFW_India



timesofindia.indiatimes.com
100 Crore Vaccine in India: 100 crore shots in the arm; India's milestone in Cov...
India News: India achieved a major milestone in its battle against Covid-19 as cumulative vaccinations in the country crossed the 100 crore mark on Thursda...

Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus
@DrTedros

Thank you #India and Prime Minister @narendramodi for your continued support to the global #COVID19 response. Only if we #ACTogether, including sharing of knowledge, can we stop this virus and save lives and livelihoods.

WHO South-East Asia
@WHOSEARO

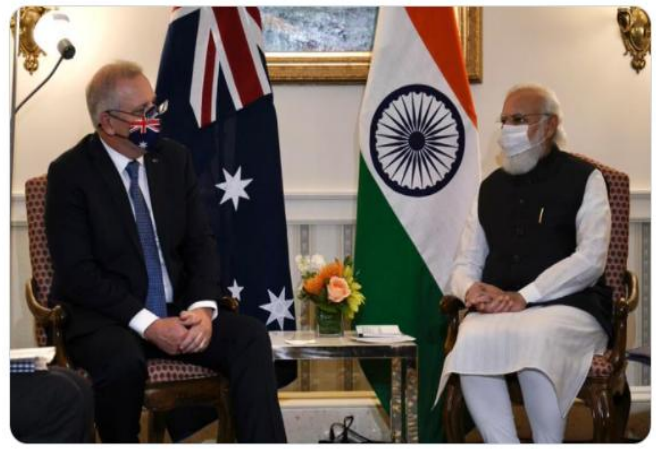
Congratulations #India for crossing 1 billion #COVID19 vaccine doses milestone.

@MoHFW_INDIA @PIB_India @ANI



Scott Morrison
@ScottMorrisonMP

Congratulations to my friend @narendramodi and his government for administering 1 billion doses of the COVID-19 vaccine. A huge achievement. India and Australia are working side by side in the Quad to expand vaccine access across the Indo-Pacific.



Thank You