I. Important policy decisions taken and major achievements during the month:

i. Measures taken by DBT to address COVID-19


   Is being implemented by BIRAC, a Public Sector Undertaking (PSU) of DBT to accelerate Indian COVID vaccine development and augment vaccine manufacturing capacities is supporting 5 vaccine candidates, 19 clinical trial sites, 6 facilities for immunogenicity assays and animal challenge models. Capacity enhancement of 03 Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs), and one private sector to ramp-up Covaxin production is being supported.

   Transfer of Technology from Bharat Biotech to the 03 PSUs and to Gujarat COVID Vaccine Consortium (GCVC) is underway and is being monitored on a weekly / as needed basis, whereby, nearly seven meetings were held in June, 2021. Technology transfer MoU with BBIL has been signed by all 4 companies, facility layout and term sheets have been finalized. IIL is in final stages of testing and validating the drug substance batches.

   Discussion was held with Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) on 18th June, 2021, to finalize regulatory issues involved in the setting-up of BSL-3 GMP facilities and development of harmonized processes for augmented vaccine production.

   b. National Technical Advisory Group on Immunization (NTAGI)

   Department participated in the 25th COVID-19 Working Group meeting of the National Technical Advisory Group on Immunization (NTAGI) held on 18th June, 2021, to review the preclinical and clinical trial data of BioE's Corbevax Vaccine. Also the present status of collaboration of BioE with Johnson & Johnson (J&J) for the adenovirus vector vaccine for COVID-19, was updated during the meeting.

   c. Quad Vaccine Experts’ Group (VEG)

   Department also participated in the discussion held between officials of MEA & BIRAC with the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) representatives on 4th June, 2021 to understand the scope of financing by JBIC and chart out further steps in facilitating identification of biomedical industries for financial support under the Quad framework. In this regard, a list of potential Indian vaccine manufacturers inclusive of their capabilities and contact information was shared with JBIC for consideration of support.

   Department participated in the second meeting of Sub-group on Vaccine Delivery, Harmonization and Administration and Science and Technology of Quad held on
24th June, 2021 to discuss the issues pertaining to criteria for selecting vaccines to receive Quad support; outreach through COVAX facility and engagement with multilateral development banks; information sharing i.e. mechanisms to share information on epidemiological indicators and vaccine deliveries in the Indo-Pacific.

Department participated in the third meeting of Quad Vaccine Experts’ Group (VEG) was held on 28th June 2021, to deliberate on issues pertaining to current situation of COVID-19 in India; Indo-Pacific COVID epidemiology, variants, and trends; decisions required for Vaccine Manufacturing and Supplies sub-group; and diplomatic strategy.

d. Testing/Diagnostics

The City /Regional clusters are established in a Hub and Spoke model to scale-up testing of COVID-19 samples in government institutions across the country. The Hubs are Government laboratories approved by respective Ministries /Departments (DBT, DST, CSIR, DAE, DRDO, ICAR etc) as per ICMR guidelines. So far 21 City /Regional clusters have been established and over 50.80 lakh samples have been tested, of which 4.79 lakhs COVID-19 tests were conducted in June 2021.

To further enable testing access to rural India, the I-lab (a mobile infectious disease lab) for COVID-19 testing was launched by Hon’ble Minister of Science and Technology on 18th Jun 2020. The I-lab can perform both RT-PCR and ELISA tests. The first lab is attached to THSTI hub and had performed about 21,376 tests in the Faridabad region of which 1,746 COVID-19 tests were conducted in June 2021.

ii Bio-safety and regulation

- The department conducted 208th and 209th meetings of Review Committee on Genetic Manipulation (RCGM) on 10.06.2020 and 24.06.2020 respectively. A total of 33 applications were considered in the 208th meeting, while 46 applications were considered in the 209th meeting. These applications include Import/Export/Transfer/Receive, information items and Pre-clinical toxicity studies for Biopharma, and Import/Export/Transfer/Receive for Agriculture. After deliberation on each application, appropriate decision was taken by the RCGM.
- During the month (till 28.06.2021) 7 Institutional Biosafety Committees were constituted.
- The 8th Interactive Session for Biosafety awareness among researchers was hosted through Video Conferencing on 17.06.2021.
- The 3rd meeting of the Expert Committee to review & update risk groups of microorganisms was held on 11.06.2021
- The 2nd meeting of the Inter-ministerial Committee for creation of online integrated portal was held on 18.06.2021.
iii Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) Cases:

The comments of the Department were communicated to DGFT on 08 applications seeking permission for export of SCOMET (Special Chemicals, Organisms, Materials, Equipment and Technologies) items.

iv Societal outreach of DBT

a. AzadikaAmritMahotsav:

The Department has been actively celebrating the "AzadikaAmritMahotsav" through various events being organized in various parts of the country on the basis of Jan Bhagidari. During the month, the department organized several events for “Showcasing Potential, Journey and Impact of Biotechnology on the society”.

- 15 science Setu/Open day events were organized to facilitate the engagement and interaction between researchers and college students and inspire critical scientific thinking and scientific curiosity.
- The BioNEST incubators supported by the PSU of the department (BIRAC) also organized outreach webinars under the themes like Innovation and Entrepreneurship, Start-up Clinics, and Startup Mahotsav in Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Kerala.
- One of the Autonomous Institute of DBT also organized two webinars on the life and work of eminent Indian Scientists Dr. DarshanRanganathan and Dr. BibhaChowdhuri to celebrate the glory of Indian Science.
- The Biotech KISAN Hubs of the department led awareness and guidance KISAN melas on topics such as production technology of pulses and oilseeds, soil health management, scientific goatery, entrepreneurship and marketing in piggery, and vegetable planting material through protection technologies. These farmer centric events were conducted in rural Andhrapadresh, UP, Bihar, and, Meghalaya.

b. FIRST Hub: Facilitation of Innovation and Regulations for Start-Ups And Innovators

FIRST HUB is a facilitation unit set up by DBT at BIRAC to address the queries of Innovators. With regards to prevailing situation around globe, special FIRST HUB COVID-19 sessions are being held every first and third Friday on the month to solve the queries of innovators. Representatives from CDSCO, ICMR, NIB, GeM, KIHT, BIS, DBT, and BIRAC are available to take queries on Regulatory Pathways, Funding Opportunities, Public Procurement, IVD testing and validation, Standards and Specifications, Manufacturing and testing infrastructure support. In the month of June, FIRST HUB sessions were conducted on 4th & 18th June and clarified 13 queries.

v International Cooperation

- The Department of Biotechnology (DBT) participated in the meeting on QUAD Critical and Emerging Technology Working Group that was held on 9th June, 2021.
- The Department of Biotechnology (DBT) participated in a discussion meeting on 10th June, 2021 with Sweden counterpart to formulate Indo-Sweden joint call to
scale up research and cooperation on Circular Economy.

- A discussion meeting was held on 22\textsuperscript{nd} June, 2021 between University of Queensland, Australia and IIT Delhi with the Department of Biotechnology on joint programs.
- Indo-Finnish Joint call: funding for Researcher Mobility has been announced on 8\textsuperscript{th} June 2021. The call opens for submission of applications from 11\textsuperscript{th} August, 2021 to 23\textsuperscript{rd} September, 2021.
- Indo-Australian Biotechnology Fund: Call for Collaborative Research Projects (Round 14) will be announced on 28\textsuperscript{th} June 2021. The call opens on 1\textsuperscript{st} July, 2021 for submission of joint proposal on or before 31\textsuperscript{st} August 2021. Priority areas are Biomaterials (including bioplastics), Digital health and telemedicine, Infection prevention and control, COVID-19 long-term health impacts.
- The BRICS STI framework meeting held on 24\textsuperscript{th} June, 2021 to finalize area of research for announcing new joint call for proposal through virtual mode. In this meeting from Indian side representatives from DBT and DST participated. In this meeting future course of action and priority areas were discussed.
- Indo-Belgian Research and Technology Cooperation: DBT along-with DST, in collaboration with Belgian Federal Science Policy Office (BELSPO), Belgium has announced the joint 4th call for proposals for networking activities. This Networking call co-funded by both parties aims at supporting exchanges that leverage long term research cooperation between multiple Belgian and Indian Research institutions, based on existing infrastructure, with significant impact on a priority research area such as Marine biotechnology and life science focused on micro-organism.
- Indo-Dutch Bilateral cooperation- The International Advisory Committee Meeting was held between DBT and Netherlands Innovation Fund (NWO) on Friday 25\textsuperscript{th} June 2020. The committee assessed the 15 R&D proposals received under joint bilateral Call announced in June 2020 on “Climate Smart Agriculture”. Relevant highly ranked proposals have been recommended based on selection criteria.
- Mission Innovation; 6\textsuperscript{th} Ministerial Meeting of Mission Innovation was hosted by Chile from May 31\textsuperscript{st} to June 06\textsuperscript{th} 2021 on virtual platform along with CEM 12. Indian Delegation led by former Hon’ble Minister for Science and Technology, Family Health & Welfare and Earth Science.
  Under the MI 2.0 Platform Launch event, the launch of Mission Innovation Platforms was announced to accelerate clean energy solutions through member’s collaboration. India announced CleanTech Exchange to support and incubate clean energy incubators through DBT supported clean energy initiative.

\textbf{vi} \textbf{Special Call under Biotech KISAN Programme for improving Agriculture Productivity in the North East Region}

The Department has issued a Special Call for North East Region as a part of its Mission Programme “Biotech-Krishi Innovation Science Application Network (Biotech-KISAN)”, with the aim to understand the local problems of the NER farmers and provide scientific solutions to those problems.

\textbf{vii} \textbf{Publications & Patents}

There have been 74 research publications and 8 patents filed/granted by the Autonomous Institutes of the Department during the month.
viii **SAHAJ: Usage and Revenue**

Under the Departments’ SAHAJ Portal (‘Scientific Infrastructure Access for Harnessing Academia University Research Joint Collaboration’) where in DBT-Autonomous Institutes and DBT supported Infrastructure programmes provide and share its equipment and infrastructure to Research Institutes, Universities, Colleges and Start-ups / Entrepreneurs; 1,131 users availed the services at DBT-AIs and a total of Rs. 2,54,08,048/- revenue was generated.

ix **Autonomous Institutions of the Department of Biotechnology: at Annexure I**

x **Public Sector Undertaking (PSU) of the Department of Biotechnology: at Annexure II**

**II. Compliance Report on Important Matters/Issues**

i Important policy matters held up on account of prolonged inter-ministerial consultations: N/A

ii Compliance of Cabinet/Cabinet Committee decisions: N/A

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No. of COS decisions pending for compliance</th>
<th>Proposed action plan/timelines for compliance of COS decisions</th>
<th>Remarks</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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iii No. of cases of ‘sanction for prosecution’ pending for more than three months: Nil

iv Particulars of cases in which there has been a departure from the Transaction of Business: Nil

v Status of implementation of e-governance:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total No. of active files: 13,450</th>
<th>Total No. of e-files generated during June: 222</th>
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vi Status of Public Grievances:

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<th>No. of Public Grievances redressed during month: 77</th>
<th>No. of Public Grievances pending at the end of the month: 36</th>
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vii Information on the specific steps taken by the Ministry/Department for utilization of the Space, Technology based tools and application in Governance and Development: Nil

viii a. Confirmation that the incumbency details of all posts in the Ministry/Department and its organizations falling under the purview of the ACC have been updated on AVMS: It is confirmed that the incumbency details of all the...
posts in the Ministry/Department (both Autonomous institutes and PSUs under DBT) falling under the purview of the ACC have been updated on AVMS

b. Status regarding compliance of the directions of ACC. A paragraph on Cases in which the ACC directions have not been complied with distinct heading: It is confirmed that directions of ACC are complied with

c. Status of cases where recommendations from PESB have been received but the proposals are yet to be submitted to the ACC Secretariat: It is stated that the same may be treated as ‘Nil’.

ix Status of Government e- Marketplace (GeM): No procurement has been done through GeM for the month of June 2021