



## MEETING SCHEDULE OF THE PMO CONSTITUTED VACCINE TASK FORCE (VTF) FOR “FOCUSED RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT OF CORONA VACCINE AND OTHER SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY ISSUES”:

**Task force for “Focused research and development of Corona vaccine and other science and technology issues” (referred to as the Vaccine Task Force (VTF))** was constituted on April 14, 2020, by the Prime Minister’s Office. This subsumed a previously internally constituted R&D Taskforce for COVID-19 Research. A total of 24 meetings have been held to date. The brief agenda points and dates of meetings are listed in the table below. Dr. V. K. Paul and Professor K. VijayRaghavan co-chair the VTF. Its members are Secretaries of Health Research, Biotechnology, Science and Technology, Scientific and Industrial Research, Telecom, Electronics and Information Technology, Defence R&D, AYUSH, Secretary, Science and Engineering Research Board, Drugs Controller General of India, and Directorate General of Health Services.

Outcomes of the meetings and roadmaps have also been shared with relevant stakeholders.

Serial No.	Meeting number	Date of Meeting	Agenda	Date of Minutes’ Circulation
1.	1 <sup>st</sup> Meeting of PMO Constituted VTF	16 April, 2020	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. ‘Barcoding’ technologies that allow pooling of samples and testing by deep sequencing.</li> <li>2. Using IT and population serology in ‘sentinel’ sites for assessing population status.</li> </ol>	17 April, 2020
2.	2 <sup>nd</sup> Meeting of PMO Constituted VTF jointly with Empowered Group	20 April, 2020	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Vaccines’ status national: industry and academia vaccine development; leaders will make a focused presentation. Focus on what are the current challenges, what needs to put in place now, what regulatory steps need to be cleared.</li> <li>2. Update on Vaccines</li> <li>3. Update on Serology</li> <li>4. Update on Pooled Sampling</li> <li>5. Sterilisation and re-use of PPE. Summary of actions taken.</li> </ol>	22 April, 2020
3.	3 <sup>rd</sup> Meeting of PMO Constituted VTF jointly with Empowered Group	27 April, 2020	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Action Report</li> <li>2. Consolidation of efforts: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vaccines: DBT to consolidate efforts of DBT/BIRAC, DST/SERB/TDB, ICMR, and CSIR and present to the Committee</li> <li>• Drug development: CSIR to consolidate efforts of DBT/BIRAC and DST/SERB/TDB, ICMR and present to the Committee</li> <li>• Diagnostics: DST to consolidate efforts of DBT/BIRAC, ICMR, and CSIR and present to the Committee</li> <li>• START-UPS: AIM, NITI Aayog to consolidate efforts of BIRAC/TDB/AIM and present to</li> </ul> </li> </ol>	29 April, 2020



			<p>Committee. AGNli can assist in the coordination.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>PPE: Sterilisation for Reuse: DRDO and DAE to consolidate efforts and present to the Committee.</li> </ul>	
4.	4 <sup>th</sup> Meeting of PMO Constituted VTF jointly with Empowered Group	18 May, 2020	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Update on COVID-19 Vaccine development: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Presentation on the status of COVID-19 vaccine development by academic institutions</li> <li>Operational mechanisms for National Vaccine Strategy</li> </ul> </li> <li>Updates on other S&amp;T matters (5 minutes each): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Summary of Kolar R&amp;D study on Serology and testing scale-up and scaling this study to other locations</li> <li>Summary of Testing (Pooling, Serology, etc.)</li> <li>Summary on PPE, ventilators, reuse, etc.</li> </ul> </li> <li>New programmes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>National Serology Research Plan</li> <li>A suggested research programme to interview chosen sets of people who tested positive: Health parameters? Health Follow-ups? What were possible routes of transmission?</li> <li>Suggested research programme on analysing hospital environments: What are the best practices, where has there been slippage, how can they be avoided?</li> </ul> </li> </ol>	20 May, 2020
5.	5 <sup>th</sup> Meeting of PMO Constituted VTF jointly with Empowered Group	22 May, 2020	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Discussions on request by the DBT for budgetary support for COVID-19 related research: Secretary, DBT made a presentation.</li> <li>Discussions on India Vaccine strategy; taking actionable steps.</li> </ol>	25 May, 2020
6.	6 <sup>th</sup> Meeting of PMO Constituted VTF	31 May, 2020	Global Collaboration	31 May, 2020
7.	7 <sup>th</sup> Meeting of PMO Constituted VTF	30 June, 2020	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Drug Development: Repurposed, plant-based and new.</li> <li>Clinical Trial platforms: An update</li> </ol>	10 July, 2020
8.	8 <sup>th</sup> Meeting of PMO Constituted VTF	11 July, 2020	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Presentations and updates on vaccine development</li> </ol>	15 July, 2020
9.	9 <sup>th</sup> Meeting of PMO Constituted VTF	13 July, 2020	<p>Research priorities: Presentations made on the following areas by the experts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Disease biology and public health</li> <li>Immuno-regulation and patient management</li> </ul>	20 July, 2020





			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Clinical research: hospital care and interventions</li> </ul>	
10.	10 <sup>th</sup> Meeting of PMO Constituted VTF	18 August, 2020	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The India COVID-19 Vaccine Development Mission “COVID Suraksha”</li> <li>Russian ‘Sputnik V’ Vaccine: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Trials/production/manufacturing in India for external market</li> <li>Use in India subject to regulatory approval</li> </ul> </li> <li>Various COVID-19 detection tests</li> </ol>	20 August, 2020
11.	11 <sup>th</sup> Meeting of PMO Constituted VTF	28 September, 2020	<p>Future areas of research:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Clinical research networks for observational studies, out-patient, and in-patient</li> <li>Therapeutics including nanobodies</li> </ul> <p>Presentations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Update of ongoing studies on COVID-19; Interim trends and recommendations of Dr. Katoch committee</li> <li>Update on vaccine development</li> </ul>	26 October, 2020
12.	Super Session of the PM-STIAC & PMO Constituted VTF	09 October, 2020	The Evolution and Future of Global Responses to the COVID-19 Pandemic.	29 October, 2020
13.	12 <sup>th</sup> Meeting of PMO Constituted VTF	03 November, 2020	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contact Tracing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Aarogya Setu Team</li> <li>Linking contact-tracing with testing: Status and challenges.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Technologies for testing and testing protocols and their roll-out</li> </ol>	10 November, 2020
14.	13 <sup>th</sup> Meeting of PMO Constituted VTF	19 November, 2020	Global processes for vaccine regulation, approvals for use, licensure, and post-marketing surveillance.	07 December, 2020
15.	14 <sup>th</sup> Meeting of PMO Constituted VTF	21 December, 2020	To discuss the new variant of SARS-CoV-2 that possibly spreads faster.	27 December, 2020
16.	Sub-Committee Meeting of the PMO Constituted VTF	28 December, 2020	To discuss Sequencing and Sequence Analysis of the SARS-CoV-2 variants.	04 January, 2021
17.	Parliamentary Standing Committee on Health and Family Welfare	22 January, 2021	Vaccine Development, Distribution Management, and Mitigation of COVID-19 Pandemic.	04 February, 2021
18.	15 <sup>th</sup> Meeting of PMO Constituted VTF	02 February, 2021	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Discussion on the preliminary results of Sero-survey and Sewage sample</li> <li>Mathematical modelling</li> </ol>	31 March, 2021





19.	16 <sup>th</sup> Meeting of PMO Constituted VTF jointly with PM-STIAC	11 February, 2021	Avian Flu – Status and Preparedness for Diseases of One Health Significance and Antimicrobial Resistance.	31 March, 2021
20.	17 <sup>th</sup> Meeting of PMO Constituted VTF	01 April, 2021	The current prevalence and trends in COVID-19 variants in the country and the analyses of trends globally: Status Review. Presentation on Indian SARS-CoV-2 Genomics Consortia (INSACOG) especially in the context of measures taken for surveillance & containment of the emerging SARS-CoV-2 variants.	06 April, 2021
21.	Sub-Committee Meeting of the PMO Constituted VTF and its follow up meeting	21 April, 2021 22 April, 2021	To discuss testing technologies and genome sequencing.	29 April, 2021
22.	18 <sup>th</sup> Meeting of PMO Constituted VTF	28 April, 2021	1. Testing <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Brief presentation on current national status</li><li>Brief presentation on international tests available and which can be rapidly deployed and scaled in India</li></ul> 2. Presentation by INSACOG 3. Presentation on international sequencing	30 April, 2021
23.	Sub-Committee Meeting of the PMO Constituted VTF	30 April, 2021	To discuss the availability of COVID-19 health and scientific data to researchers across the country.	3 May, 2021
24.	20 <sup>th</sup> Meeting of PMO constituted taskforce for focused research on corona vaccines and other S&T issues.	1 December, 2021	1. A review of the best global understanding of potential increased transmission, immune evasiveness and altered disease severity of the Omicron strain. 2. Discussion on current situation and key immediate action items.	13 December, 2021

