

# STEPPING-UP RMNCHA+N SERVICES AMIDST ANTICIPATED COVID-19 WAVE

NIPI Newsletter (July-September 2021)







Even as the country continues to get things back to normal with an anxious watch over the anticipated third wave of COVID-19, provision of RMNCHA+N services are reaching pre-COVID-19 level. The Norway India Partnership Initiative (NIPI) continues to support the national and state governments at both ends, engage with National Health Missions to ensure robust preparations to effectively respond to the next COVID-19 wave and speed up the planned activities under the RMNCHA+N umbrella.

NIPI is providing technical assistance in five focus states/UT in assessment of COVID-19 facilities, training of health care providers, supporting communication for vaccination drives, monitoring of vaccination sessions, etc. Whilst the latter COVID-19 related support continues, activities across the RMNCHA+N spectrum are being prioritized in the focus states to reattain access and sustain quality.

Aligned with its objective of 'Innovation', NIPI continues to introduce digital health solutions such as Decision Support System (DSS) for Community Health Workers (CHWs) at Health & Wellness Centers (HWCs) under maternal and child healthcare services as well as a 'Chatbot for Health Workers' to assist in paediatric COVID-19 case management. NIPI is strategically supporting the state governments of Rajasthan, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha and union territory of Jammu & Kashmir to accelerate assessment of selected facilities to reach LaQshya certification, prioritize assessments of identified Newborn Stabilization Units (NBSUs) to ensure quality care of small and sick newborns, support periodic assessments of Home-Based Care for Young Child (HBYC) program to ensure home visits of children by ASHAs and completion of provider trainings to saturate many more facilities with provision of FPC and ETAT.

This newsletter captures and describes details of NIPI support for COVID-19 and RMNCHA+N activities in the quarter July- September 2021.



# Glimpse of our key activities from July - September 2021

## Rajasthan- Making strides in care of its Young Ones

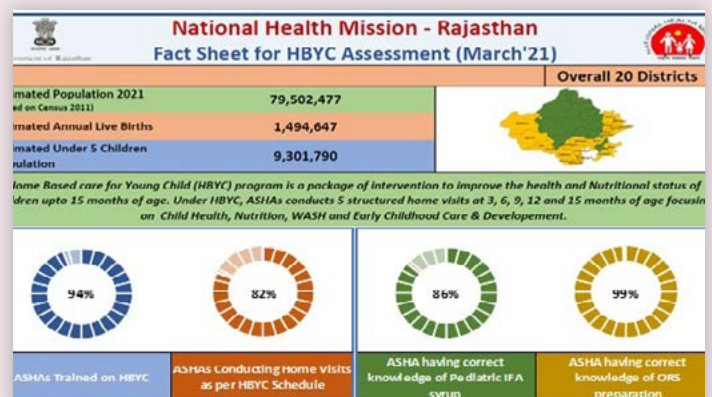


Since 2019, the state of Rajasthan is implementing the Home-Based Care for Young Child (HBYC) programme in seven, including five aspirational districts. In 2021-22 Rajasthan has included 13 more districts under HBYC. NIPI is providing technical assistance (TA) to the state in implementation of HBYC program in the selected districts.

In March 2021, NIPI supported the state led HBYC program assessment in all 20 districts to assess status of program implementation. In the already implementing seven districts, second round (periodic) of assessment was conducted and in the newly inducted 13 districts, first round (baseline) of assessment was conducted. The findings of the assessment were shared through a state-level virtual dissemination organized under the chairmanship of Dr. Laxman Singh Ola, Director RCH on July 19, 2021. The dissemination was attended by Dr. K. P. Sharma, Additional Director RCH, Dr. Gunmala Jain, Project Director, Reproductive Child Health Officers (RCHOs), District ASHA Coordinators (DACs) of 20 districts as well as representatives of NIPI and other development partners.

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NIPI Team's technical support efforts during the HBYC assessment and dissemination of fact-sheets were acknowledged by National Health Mission(NHM), Govt. of Rajasthan.



# COVID-19 Coffee Table Book: A testimony of successful stewardship by Rajasthan



Last year, following arrival of the COVID-19 pandemic, state of Rajasthan made commendable efforts in limiting the spread of COVID-19 transmission in the state. NIPI provided technical, programmatic, communication and documentation support to the state during these efforts. In 2021, a Coffee Table Book (CTB) documenting the strategic interventions implemented in its fight against COVID-19 pandemic by Government of Rajasthan (GoR) was prepared. The CTB captures success of the government's fight against COVID-19 in a compilation of success stories and testimonials from citizens.

The CTB was launched by Dr. Raghu Sharma, Honourable Health Minister of Rajasthan on 11<sup>th</sup> July 2021 on the occasion of the World Population Day. The CTB has been jointly prepared by IEC Bureau, GoR and the state NIPI team. During the preparation of the CTB, the NIPI team facilitated the collection, compilation and designing of the book's content.

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NIPI Team's technical, programmatic, communication and documentation support efforts to combat COVID-19 in Rajasthan have been captured as success stories in a recently launched Coffee Table Book (CTB).





# OUR WORK IN THE STATE - RAJASTHAN



NIPI Rajasthan team facilitated a state-level virtual orientation for new FPC centers with Child Health Division under Chairmanship of Director, RCH.



NIPI team supporting Government of Rajasthan (GoR) for Home Based Young Child Care (HBYC) programme by conducting training of trainers (TOTs) batches at SIHFW and promoting home visitations by ASHAs.



NIPI team visits labour rooms in Bundi district to provide technical assistance and to ensure improvement in quality of labour room services.



# Moving closer in achieving quality care in labour rooms and maternity OTs in Madhya Pradesh



To ensure quality of care during intrapartum and immediate post-partum period and to reduce maternal and new-born morbidity and mortality, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India implemented the “LaQshya” program aligned with NHM’s existing quality assurance framework. Under LaQshya quality improvement efforts are dedicated in strengthening service provision in labour rooms and maternity operation theaters (OTs) in selected facilities.

NIPI is providing technical assistance to Madhya Pradesh’s NHM, in fast-tracking implementation of LaQshya program in two aspirational districts, Rajgarh and Singrauli, covering a total of seven district and sub-district facilities.

NIPI team has facilitated development of the facility-specific action plans. Each facility’s action plan is based on the findings of assessment (baseline) completed in June 2020. Onsite orientation of medical officers and nursing staff on quality improvement activities and quality improvement tools such as Plan Do Check and Act (PDCA), process mapping, etc. and its documentation with setting up SMART objectives and data presentation.

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NIPI Team’s technical assistance to NHM, Madhya Pradesh’s LaQshya scheme has resulted in higher satisfaction quotient among the nursing staff in Public Health Facilities.





# OUR WORK IN THE STATE - MADHYA PRADESH



Assessment of HBVC training of ASHAs in Narsingpur district, Madhya Pradesh.



HDU assessment in Badwani, Madhya Pradesh.



Mother providing KMC at SNCU Badwani, post FPC session.



Facilitated TOT session on HBVC at RHFRTC Jabalpur.



# Strengthening Primary Health- Piloting Decision Support System (DSS) for Community Health Officers (CHOs) in Bihar



**H**ealth and Wellness Centers (HWCs), setup under Government of India's initiative- 'Ayushman Bharat' initiative, have been equipped with CHOs. A majority of these newly recruited public health cadre possess minimal clinical experience and limited capacity in complex decision making. NIPI is supporting the National Health Mission (NHM), State Health Society, Bihar (SHSB) in developing a client-centric DSS to assist CHOs in the complex decision making process in patient management. This application allows CHOs to capture patient's clinical data and other relevant data in real time. The integrated clinical rules in form of algorithms in the application generates relevant alerts and notifications guiding CHOs to take appropriate and prompt actions when serving clients at HWCs. Thus leading to improved screening and case management as well as appropriate referral of high risk children to an appropriate health facility. The DSS concept and the application was demonstrated to the Executive Director and other SHSB officials.

The NIPI Bihar team conducted a trial run of the application with select CHOs to understand their experience. Incorporating the valuable feedback received from them and following several rounds of iterations, the application is now pilot-ready.

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NIPI Team trained 27 CHOs from the selected 51 HWCs about the aim of pilot application, rationale for its development and the pre-requisites for using the application.



*DSS training session of CHOs at Rajgir, Nalanda*



# Preparing Health Systems for 3<sup>rd</sup> wave of COVID-19 in Bihar



**H**ealth Systems are still grappling with COVID-19 pandemic across the world. Experts believe that India may encounter the third wave of COVID-19 which potentially may impact children more. This necessitates an urgent need of extensive planning from policy to field level to further strengthen and prepare the health system to competently manage the next challenge.

In view of this anticipated 3<sup>rd</sup> wave, the State Health Society, Bihar (SHSB) requested all development partners to prepare a state preparedness plan for management of pediatric COVID-19 cases. The first activity planned was mapping and identification of service area gaps related to management of pediatric COVID-19 cases. Subsequently on behalf of SHSB, development partners (NIPI, UNICEF and CARE) rolled out a detailed assessment of all the health facilities across the state to understand the status of infrastructure, equipment, supplies, medicines, manpower and training. Based on the compiled findings of the assessment a detailed plan will be developed and implemented across the state.

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NIPI team supported SHSB to carry out detailed facility-wise assessment of 21 facilities in 5 districts of Bihar. The findings of the assessment were used to further strengthen the preparedness efforts for potential 3<sup>rd</sup> wave.



*Assessing feasibility of establishing PICU*



*Assessing drug availability at CHC Bhawanipur*



# Supporting Intensified Diarrhoea Control & Family Planning fortnights in Bihar



In Bihar, July has been a busy month with observation of key programs such as Intensified Diarrhoea Control (IDC) and Family Planning (FP) fortnights. The IDC fortnight scheduled from 15-29<sup>th</sup> July and the FP service fortnight, scheduled from 11-31<sup>st</sup> July, commenced with World Population Day celebrations on 11<sup>th</sup> July. Monitoring of the above program drives was planned by the State Health Society with support of the state program officers and development partners.

To support implementation of these activities, NIPI-Bihar team visited four districts of Purnea, Sitamarhi, Jamui and Muzaffarpur from 27-29<sup>th</sup> July 2021. In each of the four districts, NIPI team visited the respective district health societies and conducted program review meetings with district officials to better understand preparation and implementation of these two programs.

To gauge the level of program implementation in the field, the team also visited select block PHCs and VHSND sites in the above mentioned four districts. Beneficiaries of IDC fortnight were also interviewed to assess whether key program parameters were being achieved.

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NIPI Team visited block PHCs and VHSND sites in four districts of Bihar and distributed ORS packets and Zinc to ensure intensified Diarrhoea control in the state.



*Health Mela, CHC Aligunj District Jamui*



*Visit to VHSND site block Murual, Muzaffarpur*



# OUR WORK IN THE STATE - BIHAR



NIPI team interaction with ASHAs about implementation of HBYC program and explaining them about home-visit cards.



Ensuring essential infant and child healthcare services in Bihar. NIPI supporting State Health Society in HBYC trainings in Muzzafarpur.



Ensuring care of small and sick newborns under FPC program. NIPI supporting State Health Society of Bihar in monitoring of Special Newborn Care Units. Team conducted monitoring visit at district hospital Balia and Begusarai.



Ensuring infant care in pandemic times: NIPI supported HBYC training cum orientation of district and block health officials in district Katihar. Training held under Chairmanship of Civil surgeon Katihar.



Ensuring respectful maternity care and strengthening of labor rooms: NIPI supported state level assessment of labor room in district hospital Katihar under LaQshya program to improve quality of care in labor room and maternity OT.





# Moving from Strategy to Action: Accelerating newborn survival at public health facilities in Odisha



Newborn care and survival is central to Government of Odisha's (GoO) child health strategy. Neonatal mortality is a major concern as it remains almost stagnant in last couple of years. As per SRS 2018, Neonatal mortality rate in Odisha is 31, which has reduced by only one point since 2016, making Odisha the state with third highest neonatal mortality rate in India. Initiatives such as Janani Suraksha Yojna (JSY) have resulted in increased institutional deliveries thus making it even more critical to invest in facility-based care of the newborn. The National Health Mission (NHM), Health & Family Welfare (H&FW) Department, Government of Odisha is making a concerted effort to reduce mortality and increase the quality of facility based newborn care as per the established guidelines and protocols. In order to ensure better child survival and care at delivery points, NHM, Odisha is implementing Facility Based Newborn Care (FBNC) at Special Newborn Care Units (SNCUs), Newborn Stabilization Units (NBSUs) and Newborn Care Corners (NBCCs) at various public health facilities.

Being conscious of the goal, the first batch of state level Training of Trainers (ToT) on the updated Government of India's (GoI's) NBSU package was organized from 7-9 September, 2021 at Capital Hospital, Bhubaneswar with support of NIPI.

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NIPI Team as a longstanding technical partner to NHM, Odisha has supported in effectively planning and conducting multiple training of trainers (TOT) sessions to roll out training programmes for health service providers across the state.





# Enhancing Provision of RMNCHA+N services with ANMOL in Odisha



The ANM Online (ANMOL) application is now implemented in 22 States/UTs, post its roll-out in 2017, with more than 49,000 ANMs using the application across the country. Odisha introduced ANMOL across all its 30 districts in 2018 with 8,610 ANMs currently registered in the application. Of the 8,610 ANMs, 7,168 have been equipped with a tablet, including those engaged in provision of services at the level of a sub-center. More than 95% of the 7,168 ANMs have downloaded and are using ANMOL, as per the most recent assessment 5,842 (81.5 %) have updated beneficiary's records during the last month.

To assess field level enabling factors and practices contributing to this encouraging progress in rollout and adoption of ANMOL across the state, a team from Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoHFW), Government of India (GoI) comprising of members from Mission Mode Project (MMP) and National Informatics Center (NIC) jointly visited district Mayurbhanj from 12-13th August, 2021. This visit to the field was facilitated by NIPI as TA partner to Health & Family Welfare (H&FW) Department, Government of Odisha along with the monitoring & evaluation cell, State National Health Mission (NHM).

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NIPI Team as the TA partner to NHM, Odisha has piloted QR Code based data entry system in the ANMOL application.



*Interaction with Block Programme Manager, Block Data Manager and ANMs*



*Discussion with CDM&PHO, Mayurbhanj*



# OUR WORK IN THE STATE - ODISHA



Monitoring of integrated campaign, house to house survey by ASHA & AWW for screening COVID-19, TB and Leprosy cases in Malkangiri & Gajapati district Odisha.



NIPI supported technical committee review meeting on progress of FPC-KMC chaired by Joint Director, Technical of NHM, Odisha.



Active support by NIPI in pediatric COVID-19 management planning. Virtual State task force meeting in Bhubaneswar under the Chairmanship of Chief Secretary Odisha.



NIPI supporting state-level training of Trainers (TOTs) on new NBSU training package in Odisha.







During COVID-19 time ensuring care of small and sick newborns: Assessment of Family Participatory Care and home visits by ASHA under HBYC program in Aspirational districts of Odisha.



HBYC and FPC assessment in the district of Koraput.



Assessment of FPC/ KMC in the district of Bolangir.



NIPi supported training of AYUSH doctors of PPP-PHC on FPC-KMC innovation project and its implementation in Odisha.





# Sustaining Quality of Care at Community Health Center Katra in Jammu & Kashmir



Community Health Centre (CHC) Katra became the first CHC in the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir in April 2020 to achieve the NQAS, including LaQshya, certification by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW). The facility had undergone a 3-day assessment by a two-member team of empanelled external assessors deputed by NHSRC from 27th-29th February 2020. The facility achieved NQAS certification with an overall score of 86.90% in eleven departments: 1) Accident & Emergency, 2) Out-patient, 3) Labour Room, 4) In-patient, 5) Newborn Stabilization Units, 6) Operation Theatre, 7) Laboratory Services, 8) Radiology, 9) Pharmacy, 10) Blood Storage Unit and 12) General Administration. Following the initial certification, achieved in April 2020, the State Quality Assurance Unit (SQAU) is mandated to conduct annual assessments (surveillance assessments) at the same facility for subsequent two years to ensure adherence to standards and delivery of quality care.

To conduct the next scheduled annual assessment, at CHC Katra, a team of two internal assessors, one each from health services, Jammu & NIPI as the Lead Development Partner for Jammu & Kashmir was constituted by MD, NHM. The team visited CHC Katra from 14-15th July, 2021. During the two day visit, the team assessed all the 11 departments assessed in year 2020. The assessment began with a tour of the facility led by the Block Medical Officer, Facility Quality Nodal Officer and Block Monitoring and Evaluation Officer (BMEO) of the facility- CHC Katra.

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NIPI Team conducted in-depth assessment of the 11 departments of CHC Katra that consisted of staff interviews, patient interviews, direct observation and review of hospital records.



*Tour of the facility by Assessment team with BMO & Quality Nodal Officer- In charge*



# Inculcating Culture of Cleanliness for Positive Health Outcomes at Public Health Facilities in Jammu & Kashmir



Cleanliness and hygiene at public health facilities is essential to minimize hospital acquired infections as well as provide patients and visitors with a positive experience and to improve credibility of public health facilities. To achieve the latter, the **'Kayakalp Scheme'** - an initiative under Government of India's flagship programme- 'Swachh Bharat Abhiyan' aims to promote cleanliness, hygiene, waste management and infection control practices at public health facilities. Under Kayakalp, each health facility undergoes three levels of assessments i.e. internal, peer and external as per the prescribed criteria in the designated checklist. Facilities performing well are incentivized and recognized for their efforts at the state and national level.

NHM, J&K constituted teams for external assessments, in virtual mode, of health facilities (DHs & CHCs) from 28th June to 3rd July 2021. NIPI team supported the assessments at 20 facilities i.e. 4 District Hospitals (DH) and 16 Community Health Centers (CHCs) from both Jammu and Kashmir divisions. Assessment at each facility was initiated with a virtual tour at each facility with the facility in-charge and the Kayakalp nodal officer. Thereafter staff interview and records of various departments were reviewed jointly with facility staff virtually. The prescribed assessment checklist, shared by NHSRC, consisting of seven thematic areas covering: 1) hospital upkeep, 2) Sanitation & Hygiene, 3) Support Services, 4) Waste Management, 5) Infection Control, 6) Hygiene promotion and 7) beyond hospital boundary.

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NIPI team members were felicitated for supporting the Kayakalp external assessments by Shri Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar Advisor (Health) to Hon'ble LG and Shri Atal Dullo Additional Chief Secretary, Health & Medical Education, J&K.



*NIPI Team being felicitated at UT level function organized by NHM J&K*



## OUR WORK IN THE UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU & KASHMIR (J&K)



Supporting facility assessments under Kayakalp program in J&K as external assessors. NIPI state team members were felicitated for taking part in external assessments by Advisor Health to Hon'ble LG and Additional Chief Secretary, Health & Medical Education.



NIPI J&K team conducting supportive supervision visit of MCH programs at PHC Dangiwacha along with CMO Baramulla.



Preparedness and readiness assessment of GMC Srinagar along with NHM team to rollout Midwifery Initiative in UT of J&K.



As a lead technical partner, NIPI is supporting Midwifery initiative to establish state midwifery training institutes at GMC Srinagar and Jammu. Virtual Review meeting conducted in chairmanship of MD NHM, NIPI presented action plan to roll out the initiative.



NIPI providing need based technical support to Government of J&K in different national and state initiatives. NIPI team attending Anemia Mukat Bharat review meeting chaired by MD, NHM.





NIPI is providing technical support to NHM J&K in improving quality of health services in Aspirational districts. NIPI organized review cum orientation meeting on aspirational district action plan shared by MoHFW, GoI in chairmanship of MD, NHM.



Supporting quality improvement process in labor room and maternity OT under LaQshya program: Team supporting assessment of labour room and OT in district hospital Reasi.



Improving health in Aspirational districts: NIPI supporting NHM J&K in pre-assessment under NQAS at HWC Shiekhpora, Shirpora, Gohal Tengpora, Hamray, Malwah, Kathibug & Ougmoona in block Kreeri, Pattan, Kunzer district Baramulla with district officials.



NIPI team facilitated the supportive supervision visit for LaQshya certification of Labour room and maternity OT at District Hospital Poonch.



# COVID-19 SUPPORT

## RAJASTHAN



NIPI support to Health Department, Rajasthan in orientation of district health in-charge officers for COVID-19 activities.



NIPI team providing active support in assessment of COVID-19 hospitals in Jodhpur, Rajasthan.



Fighting the COVID-19 pandemic: Review meeting for COVID-19 preparedness conducted by Secretary Medical & Health Rajasthan at District Collectorate Alwar supported by NIPI.





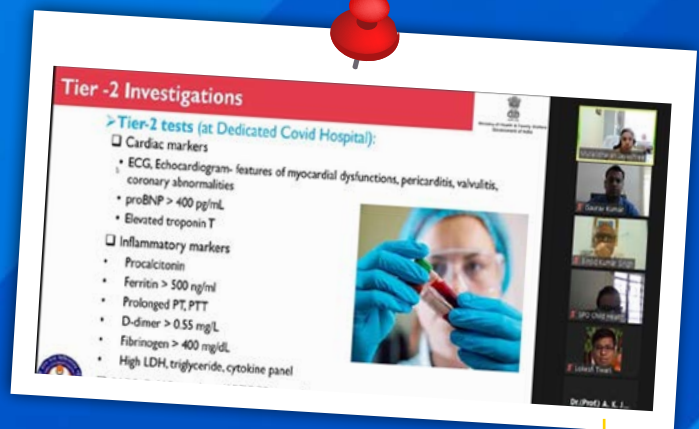
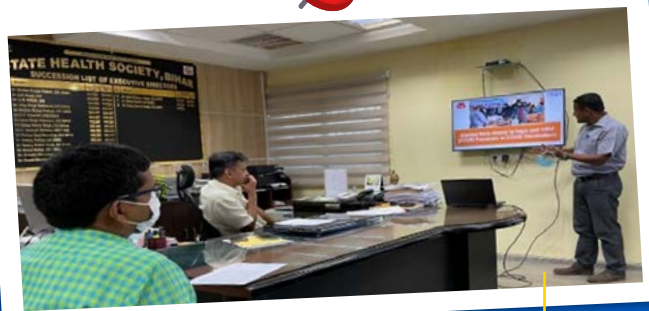
## BIHAR



NIPI team supporting State Health Society Bihar and Bihar Health Department in largest COVID-19 vaccination drive as part of 'Bihar Fights Corona' campaign. NIPI staff was facilitated by Hon'ble Health Minister for their contribution in COVID-19 vaccination, Maha Abhiyan.



Meeting with senior officers of Govt. of Bihar, on Chatbot for pediatric COVID-19 case management. Team also presented COVID-19 vaccination journey in Bihar.



Largest COVID-19 vaccination drive, Bihar Fights Corona, NIPI supporting State Health Society Bihar and Bihar Health Department in COVID vaccination campaign. NIPI staff felicitated by Hon'ble Health Minister, GoB for his contribution in COVID vaccination Maha Abhiyan.



## MADHYA PRADESH



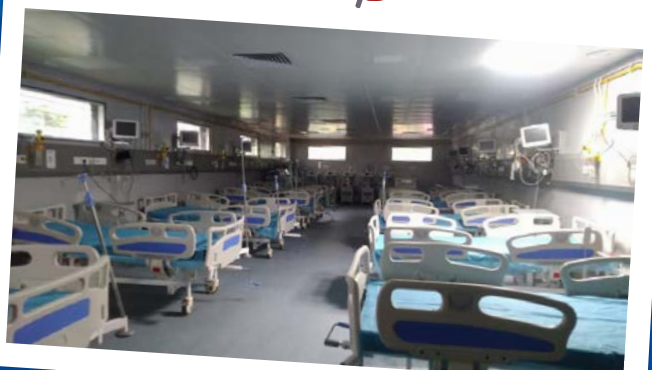
Preparedness assessment of COVID-19 vaccination for pregnant women in Bhopal, as state is starting COVID-19 vaccinations for antenatal women across the state.



Functionality assessment of the Oxygen Plan at the district hospital in Ratlam by NIPI team along with Government Officials.



Preparedness assessment of COVID-19 paediatrics care for the anticipated 3<sup>rd</sup> wave at district hospital Badwani and Khandwa.



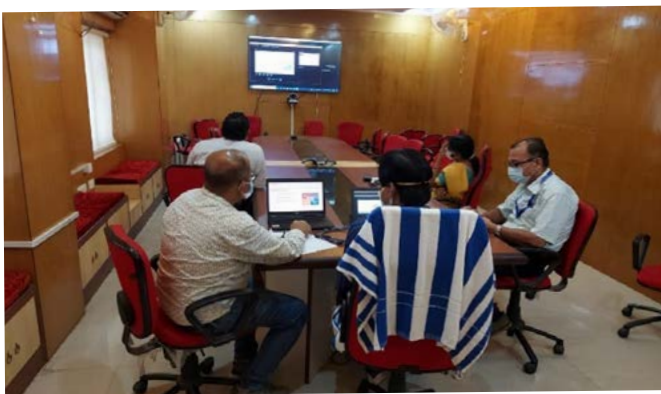


## JAMMU AND KASHMIR



Supporting COVID-19 door-to-door vaccination monitoring in block Kreeri of Baramulla with district officials.

## ODISHA



Meeting with State Technical Committee to finalize COVID-19 Decision Support Chatbot algorithm for paediatric COVID-19 cases and roll out plan. Meeting chaired by Director, Family Welfare.



A health initiative between Government of India and Government of Norway, the Norway India Partnership Initiative (NIPI) aims to innovate and scale up quality continuum of care for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health in India

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