



A policy Dialogue on COVID-19 Vaccine from Vaccine Self-Reliance to Global leadership, Opportunities, Challenges, and policy Imperatives in Covid Era: Brief Report

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A Policy Dialogue on Covid-19 Vaccine From Self-Reliance to Global leadership, Opportunities, Challenges, and policy Imperatives in Covid Era was organized by CSIR-NISTADS and CSIR-NISCAIR, New Delhi on March 01, 2021 through virtual platform with an objective of discussing and spreading awareness about vaccine issues with regard to the current Covid-19 pandemic. It provided a platform to young students, researchers, scientists and technocrats for exchange of knowledge and ideas to encourage innovations for betterment of the society. Experts from various organisations such as the O/O the Principal Scientific Adviser to the Govt. of India, Department of Science & Technology (DST), CSIR-IGIB, CSIR-Head quarters, BIRAC (DBT), etc. participated in this discourse.

Director CSIR-NISTADS/NISCAIR, Dr. Ranjana Aggarwal, welcomed the gathering with her opening remarks. She highlighted the significant role CSIR-NISTADS play in vaccine policy research and S & T policy for public health. Further, Dr Ranjana mentioned about CSIR-NISCAIR's active engagement in the dissemination of scientific information through popular science magazines and research publications. Dr Shekar C. Mande, DG-CSIR

& Secretary, DSIR, in his inaugural address highlighted major contributions of CSIR on combating Covid-19 pandemic to achieve self reliance. He was proud that the Covid-19 vaccine which was taken by the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India had adjuvant developed by the CSIR. Taking the session forward, Dr. Anurag Agarwal, Director, CSIR-IGIB, New Delhi, informed the gathering about the active participation of his institute in conducting series of sero surveys, genomic research and developing diagnostic kits. Dr Shailja Gupta, Senior Advisor, O/O PSA emphasized the need for data transparency in the public domain and appreciated contribution from the Industry. Dr. Shirshendu Mukherjee, Mission Director, BIRAC, New Delhi, stated that BIRAC played a crucial role in international cooperation in vaccine development. Shri. SK Varshney, Scientist G & Head, International Cooperation, Department of Science & Technology (DST), emphasized that India is a global hub for supplying medicines and vaccines to other neighbouring countries through vaccine diplomacy.

Dr. Geetha Vani Rayasam, Head of Science Communication and Dissemination Division, CSIR, New Delhi, highlighted the need for enhancing awareness on science communication and public health, particularly in fighting unprecedented pandemic like Covid-19. She added that providing relevant and reliable information is extremely important.

Dr Y Madhavi, Sr. Principal Scientist, CSIR-NISTADS, New Delhi moderated the discussion and summed up the concluding session. Dr. NK Prasanna, Scientist and Editor, Indian Journal of Biochemistry and Biophysics, CSIR-NISCAIR, and Dr Paramananda Barman, Scientist and Associate Editor, Indian Journal of Traditional knowledge, CSIR-NISCAIR, played vital role in organizing the event successfully.