

SERUM TIMES

Monthly | Volume-VI | Issue - VI | June - 2021

SERUM MEDICAL BULLETIN

From the desk of the Editor-in-Chief

Dear Doctors / Readers,

Hope you are all physically well. In the last few issues we have been beginning our editorial matters with an anxiety. You are quite aware of the reason behind it. In this issue we are going to point out some of the policy failures of the government of India which resulted in spread of corona virus with increasing intensity in our country. The national and top graded international media have categorically mentioned about the policy failure of the government as the main reason behind this catastrophe.



In the last issue we have discussed the special feature of the second wave of COVID in India. There we did not point out an important feature. In the first phase, COVID 19 was mainly an urban phenomenon but in the second wave of COVID 19, rural India has also been affected severely. It is known that the health infrastructure in rural India is mostly inadequate. In many villages health system has been virtually absent. In the long run perspective the low health budget of Union and State governments may be thought as the chief reason behind this situation. The health sector is mainly a state subject according to the Seventh Schedule of our Constitution. But the health matters related to prevention and spread of infectious diseases are under the Central government. So the State governments generally look after public health and allied subjects, such as, sanitation, hospitals and dispensaries, etc.

Health expenditure as a percentage of the GDP of India is not even 1%. The Budget estimate on health in 2020-21 was Rs. 67,484crore. It has been increased to Rs 73,931.77crore in 2021-22. But actually the budget on health has been lowered as the revised estimate of the budget in 2020-21 was Rs 85,089crore due to pandemic crisis.

One of the major ways of solution has been the rapid vaccination of as many people as possible. This would save the lives and livelihoods of the people in the country. But the vaccination has become a complete mess due to lack of government policy. The next story will discuss how the policy failure of the government of India has intensified the spread of the second wave of the COVID 19 and media reaction about it.

Wishing you all good health and safe lives,

Sanjib Acharya

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India must pursue speedy vaccination & reduce SARS-CoV 2 transmission

The famous medical journal, the Lancet (May 8, 2021 issue) categorically pointed out that to save the lives of its people, India must pursue a two-pronged strategy. First the botched vaccination campaign must be rationalised and implemented with all due speed. Secondly, India must reduce SARS-CoV 2 transmission as much as possible while the vaccine is rolled out. In this article, the Lancet castigated the callousness of the Indian government about its dealing with the most serious matter of the country. It said that as of May 4, more than 20.2 million cases of COVID 19 had been reported, with a rolling average of 3,78,000 cases a day, together with more than 2,22,000 deaths, which experts believe are likely to be substantial estimates. On the casual approach of the government about the control of COVID 19 spread the journal said, "despite repeated warnings of the dangers of a second waves and the emergence of new strains... modelling suggested falsely that India had reached hard immunity, encouraging complacency and insufficient preparation. But a serosurvey by the Indian Council of Medical Research in January suggested that only 21% of the population had antibodies against SARS-CoV-2." At that time Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi was busy with median management about its success in dealing with the COVID 19 with very low sufferings of the people, the journal hinted.

The Lancet also raised the issue of mess of vaccination method in the country where lack of availability of vaccines, government's abrupt shifting course without discussion with the change in vaccination



policy with states, absence of policy to distribute the entire crisis throughout the country, etc. which have badly damaged the lives of the people. It has also recognized the lack of governance regarding the supply of the oxygen and other life saving drugs and items for the COVID 19 affected patients.

In the last paragraph of the article the journal pointed out, "The Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation estimates that India will see a staggering 1 million deaths from COVID 19 by August 1, 2021. If that outcome were to happen, Modi's Government would be responsible for presiding over a self inflicted national catastrophe."

Some interesting facts about blood

How many of us know that gold is present in human blood? We are interested in elements of blood like plasma, red blood cells, white blood cells and platelets. There are also elements in blood such as vitamins, electrolytes and other nutrients which are dissolved in the blood and these are carried to the body's cells and organs. But most interesting fact, perhaps is, the presence of gold and iron in blood.

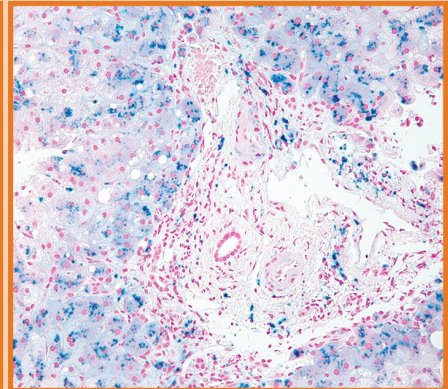
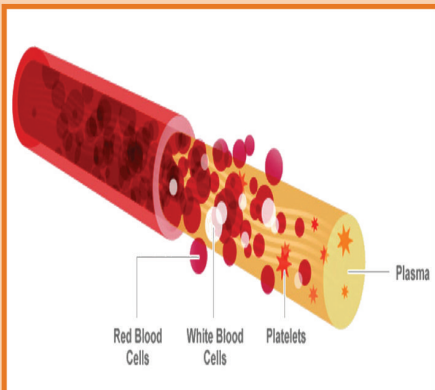
Existence of gold and iron in blood

Gold makes up about 0.02% of human blood. There is an interesting joke published in Live Science. "If you are trying to sell the gold in your blood, you actually need about 40,000 people's blood in order to have enough gold to sell." Even this is not enough information for anyone to make money. It is estimated that those 40,000 people would yield only about 8 ounces or 28 grams of gold.

Iron is far more plentiful in blood. It is required for keeping the red blood cells circular shape. This explains why adults have about 3 to 4 grams of iron floating around in their blood.

Comparison of quantity of blood in human and some animals

It is known that the average adult has about 4.5 to 5.5 litres of blood circulating inside the body. Without any blood a human body weighs 8 to 10% less. For example, a person of 54 kgs contains 4.4 to 5.4 kgs of blood. The same amount of blood is present in the bodies of 5 to 6 years old children. The children are smaller in size their weights, bones, muscles, organs are less than adults. But according to



the the doctors their blood makes up a larger percentage of their body weight than it does in adults. Surprisingly enough newborn babies barely have any blood. A new born baby of 2.3 to 3.6 kg, has only about 1cup, that is, 02 litres of blood.

A cat of 4.5 kg weight, for example, has similar amount of blood. But dogs have slightly more amount of blood. A dog has blood of about 86 millilitres per kg compared with about 55 ml per kg of cat. This means a 36 kg dog has 3 litres of blood according to the doctors.

SERUM's Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)

Food Service to People at the time of COVID Lockdown
a noble initiative of East Bengal Club & SERUM Group



May 29: At City College, Amherst Street



May 28: ULTADANGA Business Association and Bengal National Association

May 27: 29er Pally Kali Puja Committee and Ma Sarada Primary School.



May 25: Amra Sobai Club

May 24: Ultadanga Vivekananda Club & Protyasa

May 21: 65, Surya Sen Street



May 22: Block No. 7, Bagbazar & Bagmari Diganta Club



An initiative of **SSERUM Analysis Centre (P) Ltd.**
This is a Medical Bulletin. Edited, compiled & published by Editorial Board for and on behalf of S SERUM Analysis Centre (P) Ltd., 82/4B, Bidhan Sarani, Kolkata 700004. Chief Editor: Sanjib Acharya. Website: sserumanalysiscentre.com
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