

## **Seminar Report on “India's Covid Vaccine Saga”**

**Date & Time:** Wednesday, 27th December, 2023, at 4:00 PM

**Venue:** Swami Vivekananda Auditorium, Indian Institute of Chemical Technology (CSIR-IICT), Uppal Road, Hyderabad

**Speaker: Dr. Balaram Bhargava,** Professor of Cardiology, AIIMS New Delhi, and Former Director General, ICMR & Secretary, Department of Health Research, Government of India.

**Event:** 11th Dr. Manohar V.N. Shirodkar Memorial Lecture conducted by Telangana Academy of Sciences

### **Welcome address**

Welcome address given by Prof. S. Satyanarayana Gen.Secretary, TAS, and former VC Osmania university. He welcomed all the dignitaries to the dais and welcomed students and faculty members to the seminar

### **Introduction:**

The Telangana Academy of Sciences held its 11th Dr. Manohar V.N. Shirodkar Memorial Lecture at the prestigious Swami Vivekananda Auditorium, inviting Dr. Balaram Bhargava, a distinguished authority in cardiology and former Director General of the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR). The lecture, titled "India's Covid Vaccine Saga," promised an insightful exploration into the nation's journey through the challenges and triumphs of combating the Covid-19 pandemic.

### **Speaker Profile - Dr. Balaram Bhargava:**

Dr. Bhargava's vast expertise in cardiology, coupled with his pivotal role in guiding India's medical research and response to the Covid-19 crisis, made him a fitting speaker for this critical discourse. His tenure at AIIMS and leadership at ICMR have been instrumental in shaping strategies for tackling public health emergencies.

### **Awards**

In 2019 Bhargava received the Gujar Mal Science Award 2018. Bhargava is a recipient of S. N. Bose Centenary Award of the Indian Science Congress, Platinum Jubilee Award of the National Academy of Sciences and the Vasvik Award. He has also received Tata Innovation Fellowship for facilitating Biodesign Innovation fellows' work. The Government of India honoured him, in 2014, by awarding him the Padma Shri, the fourth highest civilian award, for his contributions to the field of medicine (cardiology). He is one of the laureates of the 2015 UNESCO-Equatorial Guinea International Prize for Research in the Life Sciences. In 2019, he received the Dr LEE Jong-wook Memorial Prize for Public Health.

### **Seminar Overview:**

Dr. Bhargava commenced the lecture by contextualizing the global significance of India's response to the Covid-19 pandemic. He underscored the country's unique challenges and emphasized the pivotal role played by indigenous vaccine development especially COVAXIN developed by BHARATH BIOTECH and mass immunization campaigns in curbing the spread of the virus.

### **Key Highlights:**

**Covid Vaccine Development:** **Dr. Bhargava** delved into the journey of COVAXIN development in India. He highlighted the collaborative efforts of researchers, scientists, and pharmaceutical companies in the rapid creation of effective vaccines, notably Covaxin and Covishield.

Further he mentioned about developing a vaccine involves extensive research, testing, and regulatory approvals, a process that usually takes years. With the urgency of the pandemic, scientists and researchers were under immense pressure to accelerate this process without compromising safety and efficacy standards.

He also explained how difficult to Scientists to quickly understand its structure, behavior, and transmission patterns to target the right components for vaccine development.

He also mentioned the difficulties faced during clinical trials especially in Indian origin Monkeys and getting approvals from WHO and challenges from various countries

He appreciated the efforts of Scientist and other researchers for their efforts in vaccine invention and staying away from the family members and staying in self-Isolation etc

He appreciated the efforts of INDIAN Government to supply vaccine to other countries

**Challenges Faced:** The lecture candidly addressed the hurdles encountered for getting approval from WHO and vaccine rollout, including logistical issues, vaccine hesitancy, and the need for equitable distribution across diverse socio-economic segments.

He mentioned the challenges faced during emergency medical support to the rural areas

**Achievements and Impact:** The remarkable success achieved in achieving high vaccination rates, significantly reducing Covid-19 cases and fatalities, was a focal point. Dr. Bhargava emphasized the importance of vaccination drives in safeguarding public health and driving economic recovery.

### **Q&A Session:**

The lecture concluded with an engaging Q&A session, where attendees actively participated, posing insightful queries about the future trajectory of India's vaccination strategy, booster doses, and preparedness for potential future pandemics.

Dr. Bhargava further mentioned that the recent occurring Cardiovascular problems are not related to vaccine as Vaccine was completely tested for safety and Efficacy

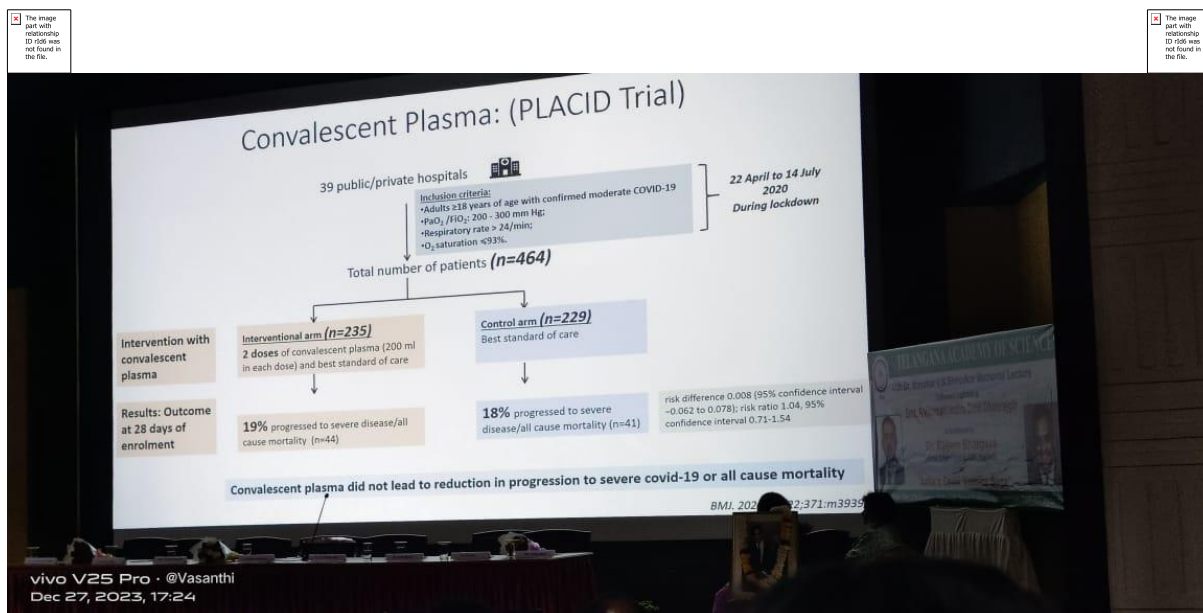
## Conclusion:

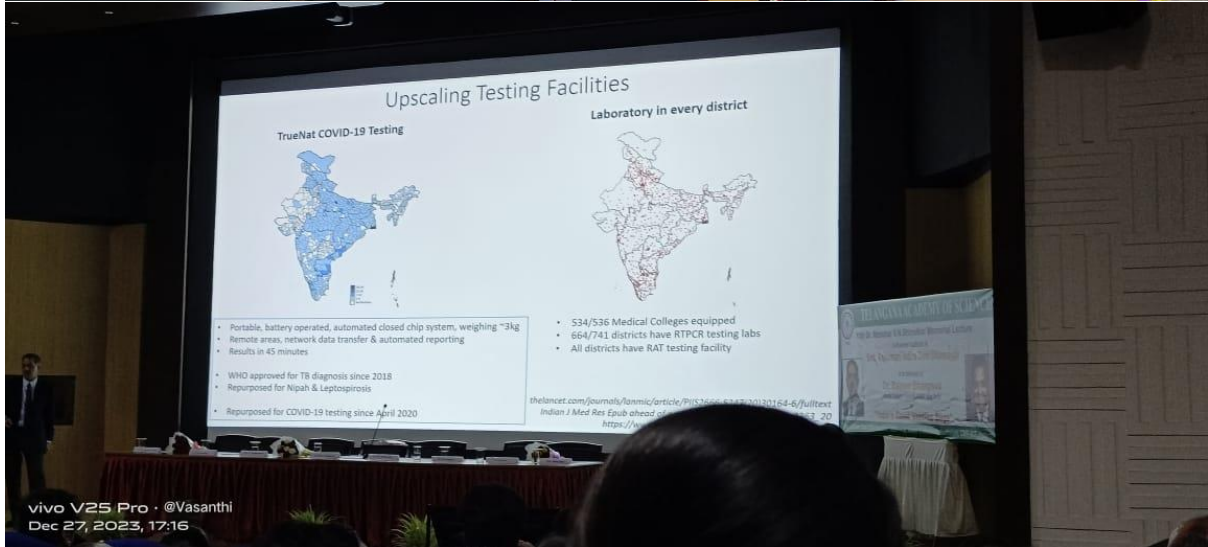
Dr. Balaram Bhargava's lecture on "India's Covid Vaccine Saga" at the Telangana Academy of Sciences memorial lecture was a compelling elucidation of India's challenges, successes, and future prospects in combatting the Covid-19 pandemic. His insights provided a comprehensive understanding of the complexities involved in vaccine development, distribution, and the importance of sustained public health initiatives.

The seminar served as an inspiration, motivating stakeholders to continue collaborative efforts in advancing healthcare infrastructure, research, and community engagement towards a resilient future in public health.

**Vote of Thanks given** by Prof.V.Ravinder, Joint Secretary, TAS, Professor of Chemistry KU Warangal

The seminar ended with National Anthem.





# Vaccine: Isolation & Characterization of SARS-CoV-2

